Dudley
CHRONICLE

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NO-SHOWS COST THE NHS £1.5M

Report by Heather Large

PATIENTS failed to turn up to nearly 15,000 appointments at Dudley's hospitals in just six months – costing the NHS £1.5 million.

Hundreds of hours of clinic time were lost due to people missing their out-patient appointments between January and June this year.

Paula Clark, chief executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital and the Guest Outpatient Centre, both in Dudley, and Corbett Outpatient Centre in Stourbridge, said a total of 14,817 sessions were missed.

She is now urging patients to warn hospital staff if they can't make it, so someone else can have the slot.

Every time a patient fails to show, it costs the hospital trust an average of around £70. This includes the staffing resource wasted and the cost of additional letters and time taken to reschedule appointments.

Ms Clark said: "When a patient doesn't attend on the day, it's too late to offer their slot to somebody else. If patients can't attend their appointment, it's really important that they let us know so we can reschedule for another time and offer the appointment to somebody else who needs it.

"To help reduce the number of DNAs (did not attends) we have introduced a text message reminder service which reminds patients a few days before they are due to have an appointment."

The free text reminders contain the date and time of the appointment as well as the location and name of the clinician that the patient is due to see. The hospital trust has previously posted reminder messages on its website, urging people to contact staff if they are unable to attend.

Waste

Last year, between January 1 and December 31, a total of 40,719 appointments were missed by patients.

In July, health secretary Jeremy Hunt said missed hospital appointments cost the taxpayer £750m and missed GP appointments cost £162m. It's estimated 6.9 million slots go to waste because people do not turn up.

Mr Hunt said patients who miss appointments should be told how much they have cost the NHS. He also wants to display the cost of prescription medicines on packets in a bid to reduce medicine waste.

The bill at Dudley comes as bosses work to balance the books in the wake of Government funding cuts. Bosses have been reviewing the positions of temporary staff, those on fixed-term contracts, and bank and agency workers. They have also been looking at reducing overtime and recruitment to non-clinical vacancies to claw back costs.

HUNDREDS JOIN IN BATTLE OF BRITAIN TRIBUTE

Brian Lee from the Worcestershire Regimental Association lays a wreath during the Battle of Britain service at Dudley Cenotaph

HUNDREDS paid solemn tribute to those who fought in the Battle of Britain at a remembrance parade and service in Dudley.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the fight in the skies above Britain in the Second World War that effectively halted Nazi Germany's invasion of Britain by defeating the Luftwaffe.

With the anniversary being marked across the country, Dudley's annual Battle of Britain thanksgiving commemoration took on greater significance on Sunday.

Veterans, RAF members and the Air Training Corps paraded ahead of the service at St Thomas and St Luke Church, also known as Top Church, in High Street.

Around 130 Air Cadets marched through the town creating a spectacle for hundreds of people lining the streets and attending the services.

The cadets came from eight squadrons in the Black Country including Stourbridge, Halesowen and West Bromwich.

The service was held in the church before the cadets led a parade back through the town to take a salute from dignitaries on the steps of Dudley Council House. Cadets then lined up in front of Dudley's cenotaph before the Last Post signalled a two minute silence and wreath laying ceremony.

Among speakers was John Deane, aged 78, of Maygrove Road, Kingswinford, who joined the RAF in 1955, serving in Iraq and Cyprus. He now works with Air Training Corps inspiring young people. He is also member of the Dudley branch of the RAF Association.

"I'm proud to be here and see so many people come out to take part in the event," he said.

HOUSING

It's a new lease of life for historic pub

A VANDAL-HIT pub in Dudley which has been closed for 25 years will be given a new lease of life as apartments, under plans submitted to Dudley Council.

The Gypsies Tent Inn, in Steppingstone Street, dating back to the 19th century, has been boarded up for decades. It has been targeted by vandals and arsonists, and stripped of many of its original features.

Now developers have revealed proposals to convert the building into four one-bedroom and two two-bedroom apartments with a three-storey extension containing six two-bedroom apartments.

BANK

HSBC decides to close branch

A branch of HSBC will close in December after a 'significant fall' in the number of people using it.

The Brierley Hill branch, in High Street, will close its doors for the final time on December 4. Officials said they were working with the five staff to find them roles at other branches.

Spokesman Sorrel Beynon said: "Unfortunately use of the Brierley Hill branch has fallen significantly over the past few years and we have taken the difficult decision to close it."

ACCIDENT

Crossing call after boy, 9, is injured

A nine-year-old boy suffered a head injury when hit by a car in Wordsley. The accident happened in Bromley Lane.

Police and paramedics were called to the scene at around 10am on Saturday.

West Midlands Police spokesman Brigg Ford said the boy was conscious and talking to officers at the scene. He was taken to hospital for further treatment.

The accident has prompted calls for safety improvements. Councillor Derrick Hemingsley said: "I have asked Dudley Council to investigate both Bromley Lane crossings and Rangeways Road to seek their view on crossing lights."

INSIDE

STRUM-THING RATHER SPECIAL

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Comm-unity event is hailed a success

Vonnie Knight and Emilie Walt at the event

COMMUNITY leaders reflected a positive view on life in Dudley with an event to bring different people together.

The Dudley commUNITY event was bathed in sunshine on Saturday attracting generations of families into the town.

And it aimed to banish the clouds which had gathered after three far right protests paraded in Dudley.

Groups including the English Defence League have paraded in Dudley this year against plans for a new mosque to be built.

But the visitors have caused disruption and drew wide-spread condemnation from traders whose takings were hit and council and police paying off to keep the peace.

Instead of hundreds of police officers, steel security fencing and boarded up shops, it was all smiles in the town.

Hundreds of people from across the borough came together to celebrate the community event at the weekend.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, said that it was important as an event to mark a public declaration of the town's unity.

"The people of this borough are warm, welcoming and rightly proud of who they are and where they come from," he said. "Although our backgrounds may differ, we share many of the same core values."

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, opened the festivities before speeches from other dignitaries including West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, head of Dudley Market Traders Len Lenihan, Dudley North MP Ian Austin, representatives from Dudley Interfaith Network Reverend Andrew Wickens and Imam Hashmi.

Victory as Morrisons pulls out of pub deal

SUPERMARKET giant Morrisons has pulled out of a deal which would have seen a Sedgley pub demolished and replaced with a convenience store – much to the delight of campaigners.

Protesters who have been trying to save the Seven Stars in Sedgley were handed the unexpected boost as the troubled company withdrew its licensing application for a new store.

Morrisons had appeared all set to take over the pub after being granted planning permission when Dudley Council's decision to reject the application was overturned at appeal.

But the saga surrounding the Gospel End Road venue has taken another twist with the supermarket chain pulling out.

Earlier this month the firm announced that it was to sell off 140 M local convenience stores, many of which were making a loss. The new store to replace the Seven Stars was primed to be an M local store.

Disappointing

Then last week, Morrisons announced it was to close 11 of its supermarkets, including sites in West Bromwich and Oldbury.

It came after the company posted disappointing profits results in March, reporting a 52 per cent slump.

Morrisons spokesman James French said: "I can confirm that we have withdrawn the current licence application on the Seven Stars."

Campaigners have claimed victory after hearing their news but there remains a question mark over whether Greybull Capital, which purchased the M local stores, will take over from where Morrisons left off and try to put a store on the site themselves.

A fierce campaign has been led by regular pub-goers and residents to try to save the pub since Morrisons first confirmed its interest late last year.

Activists even staged a protest outside the headquarters of Marston's brewery, which owns the pub, in Wolverhampton to get their message across to bosses.

Saved – The Seven Stars pub in Gospel End Road, Sedgley was under threat of demolition to become a new store

Sedgley Councillor and UKIP MEP Bill Etheridge, who has been part of the campaign, said: "This is great news for the local community, who fought so long and so hard to keep their pub.

"Throughout the whole fight we have never wavered in our determination to stop this development going ahead. Why replace a viable, vibrant pub with a convenience store that could well be a loss-maker. It is now the convenience stores that are struggling to make the money.

"We have stuck with it to the end and now the local community has the result that it deserved. It's a triumph for local democracy and it is a real demonstration of people power."

Meanwhile, a 300-strong petition against plans to turn a Woodsetton pub into a convenience store has been lodged with council chiefs. The Summerhouse Inn, on Sedgley Road, has been earmarked to be turned into a Co-op store. But the scheme has sparked outrage from residents.

Regulars at the Haden Cross in Cradley Heath thought that they had successfully stopped developers when an application was rejected by Sandwell Council in January. But New River Retail, who bought hundreds of pubs from Marstons, now claim to have addressed issues that saw the original plan fail and have submitted a revised blueprint.

A public meeting was called by Friends of Haden Cross at the Halesowen Road pub and the Friends are encouraging residents to sigh their petition and make fresh objections.

Sales boost sees jobs created at kitchen firm

A KINGSWINFORD company that designs, makes and installs commercial kitchens has stepped up recruitment.

Francis Catering Equipment, which currently employs 46 at its base in Ham Lane, has seen business soar from under £200,000 to more than £1.2 million within the past 18 months.

Aardvark Marketing Consultants and Heart of England Sandler Training Centre collaborated on a sales and marketing programme for the business, established in 1973, that has totally changed how Francis Catering approach look for new clients.

Chris Hutchinson, managing director of Aardvark Marketing, said: "Our objective was to generate £1 million of new business sales per annum over a five-year period. Using a mix of communication channels, and rigorous measurement, we have exceeded our targets."

Francis Catering Equipment employs a large team of skilled craftsmen, making it one of the largest design houses in the West Midlands. It designs, manufactures, installs and maintains commercial kitchens for a variety of sectors including bars, restaurants, schools, hospitals and local authorities.

"I can't believe how much the sales generator programme has changed the nature and values of our activities," said managing director Neil Humphries.

The company has been recruiting welders, labourers, drivers, ventilation engineers, plumbers, electricians, gas fitters and warehouse staff as a result of the growth.

Council act over repairs rubbish

MEASURES have been put in place after residents complained waste was being left outside council houses following refurbishment work.

Dudley Council said the target collection for rubbish created by housing repairs was by close of the next working day following a job completion. Officials said the performance for the current financial year, for April to July, was 97 per cent.

But Councillor Paul Brothwood, member for Wordsley, said residents had complained that the council or contractors had left rubbish outside homes. He asked what was being done to tackle the issue. In a written response, the council said measures included a dedicated waste telephone hotline, prioritisation of work and better communication.

Matches called off due to travellers

TRAVELLERS moved onto pitches at Coneygre Arts Centre in Tipton, forcing matches to be cancelled.

Caravans and trailers moved onto the site on Friday night, resulting in Gornal Girls FC having to pull the plug on their training sessions and Saturday games.

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Suspended sentence for benefits cheat, 25

A WOMAN from Brierley Hill who wrongly received more than £40,000 in benefits has been spared an immediate jail term.

Claire Southall, aged 25, did not tell the authorities she had been living with her partner over several years meaning she was overpaid income support, housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Judge Stephen Eyre QC, branded her behaviour 'selfish and dishonest' but because she had started to pay back the money he handed her a suspended ten month prison sentence.

Southall, of Sheriff Drive, will have to do 150 hours unpaid work having previously pleaded guilty to three counts of dishonestly failing to notify a change of circumstances that she knew would affect her entitlement.

Prosecuting, Mr Narmola, said Southall had been living in various houses with her partner over the period she received the payments, without notifying the authorities.

He said the total overpayment of £40,323 consisted of £13,743 in income support, £23,345 in housing benefit and £3,234 in council tax benefit.

Defending, Mr Gibbs, said his client's turbulent relationship with her partner, with whom she has two children, "cannot be characterised as a stable one".

She had been paying back £240 each month since October 2013 having got a job as a cleaner at Merry Hill shopping centre, the court heard.

Metal heritage and art display

A LIBRARY is hosting a exhibition unearthing the Black Country's heritage featuring a well-known artist.

Tipton Library, in Unity Walk, will be hosting its popular history day on Saturday, which features an exhibition by Luke Perry, an historian and metalworks artist based in Cradley Heath.

Mr Perry has created photographic portraits of workers at Solid Swivel manufacturers in Cradley Heath, housed in metal frames assembled and crafted from waste metal found on the factory floor. This exhibition was a commissioned as part of the Black country echoes project in 2014.

It will open at Tipton library's Local History Day and run until the end of October.

Pensioners' party to honour Queen

PENSIONERS celebrated the Queen becoming Britain's longest reigning monarch with a party. Councillors John Martin and Karen Jordan hosted the event at Brockmoor Community Centre for 40 senior citizens.

Action on car park yobs is welcomed

COUNCILLORS have welcomed plans to combat vandalism and anti-social behaviour at a Stourbridge shopping centre car park.

Shoppers using the Ryemarket car park have complained about gangs of teenagers and skateboarders.

Windows have been smashed and walls daubed with graffiti. Damage has also been caused to the roof of the car park.

Dudley Council is now looking to step up security to tackle the problems.

It comes as police continue with a proposal to introduce a Public Space Protection Plan, which would give officers greater powers for dealing with troublemakers.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, who represents the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward, said: "They (the yobs) seem to see the car park as a place to congregate. They are just mindless idiots causing trouble.

"I went there myself to have a look around and it is just an absolute mess. There are trolleys and all sorts of other debris – it's disgusting — and it's just an added pressure on the council, police and other services.

"We hope that the Public Space Protection Plan will at least give the authorities more power in tackling them. We don't want them to move on elsewhere but we need to put a stop to what is happening on the Ryemarket.

"We need to tidy the car park up and use that as an incentive to get people back shopping. No doubt businesses would welcome that too."

Earlier on in the month, yobs caused damage to the roof of the car park resulting in police giving two warning letters to youths after investigations

Under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act's Public Space Protection Order anyone caught flouting the rules could face a £100 fine or risk being taken to court.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are aware of the latest anti-social behaviour in the car park." Centre manager Kelley Dyas said: "We are working closely with the police."

Music project hits right note for The Waterfront

A MUSIC institute is to be created at Brierley Hill's Waterfront complex under ambitious plans to bring hundreds of students to the town.

Dudley Council has announced it is working with the Birmingham Institute of Contemporary Music and Production (BICMP) on the project.

If approved, the scheme will bring 600 students to the town to study degrees and other qualifications in music, production, education, composition and music management.

New facilities will also be created including rehearsal rooms, recording studios, a shop, technology labs, classrooms and a lecture theatre. It will also play a major role in organising music festivals in the borough.

Council officials said the project would be a key part of the regeneration proposals for the Waterfront after the council set up a Business Investment Zone.

But they said the project was still in its early stages.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "This is a major opportunity for us and shows that Dudley borough is a key destination for nationally renowned organisations.

"The new music institute will create a state of the art venue for some of the country's top music students to study for qualifications in a range of music disciplines.

Support

"I am pleased our hard work behind the scenes at the Business Investment Zone is opening opportunities and Brierley Hill is seen as a viable destination for business.

"Clearly Dudley borough is open for business and we will support any organisation who wants to come here."

He added: "If this goes ahead it will have a huge positive impact on the local economy including shopping, accommodation and much more."

The council work with BICMP, a registered charity, to help with planning, external funding and other issues in the early stages.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said: "After several years in doldrums it is good to see the Waterfront attracting this kind of significant development.

"Dudley borough is once again leading the way and this development will only strengthen that."

Blaze destroys ten luxury motors

The fierce blaze at Central Sports Cars, in Wordsley, gutted the workshop and ten luxury cars

THIS is the scene of destruction after a blaze gutted a workshop at a car repair firm destroying 10 luxury cars, including Porsches.

Bosses at Central Sports Cars, in Wordsley, were left counting the cost with insurance assessors on Friday after Thursday's blaze sparked by a welding accident.

Only the charred shells of Porsches and TVRs remained with the rest of the workshop reduced to twisted metal.

During the height of the blaze firefighters warned residents to close their doors and windows and not to leave their homes. Some residents had to clear gardens of debris and a road was closed off.

Ten cars under repair, including some Porsches, were destroyed in the fire. But staff were able to save eight other vehicles which were parked outside.

No-one was injured in the blaze. Ambulance crews were also called to the scene as a precaution. There were no suspicious circumstances.

Company owner Adrian Winridge, based at the unit for ten years, said: "We were doing some welding on the chassis. It caught fire and just went up in seconds. We're all very upset by what has happened."

Around 30 firefighters were involved in tackling the fire with eight engines and a hydraulic platform needed to control the blaze.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Salt Cave proposed at restaurant site

A CENTRE for people with respiratory problems is set to be created at Brierley Hill's Waterfront complex under new plans.

Intu Properties has forwarded the application to Dudley Council and it will be considered later this year.

If approved, the development, called Salt Cave, would be created at the former Imperial Chinese Restaurant premises. People using the Salt Cave sit in chairs and hear relaxing music while breathing in air infused with dry salt. It would be the first to Salt Cave open in the Midlands.

Chance to have a say at safety event

PEOPLE in Dudley are being invited to take part in an annual community safety consultation event tonight (Thu). It will be held at Brierley Hill Civic Hall between 6.30pm and 9pm.

The event, organised by Dudley Council's Community Safety Partnership, gives residents a chance to meet decision-makers from the police, council, fire service and other organisations.

They will be able to ask questions about how the partnership tackles crime and substance misuse. Call (01384) 814735 for details.

Conference on services for elderly

OLDER residents in Dudley are invited to attend the annual conference to find out more about services available in the borough.

It will take place at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on October 1. The conference will run from 9.30am until 3.30pm.

Refreshments, including lunch, will be provided and travel costs will be reimbursed for any older person attending. To register contact Michelle Raan at Age UK Dudley on (01384) 354508.

Cycle route earmarked for dual-carriageway

A £130,000 cycle route is to be created along a busy main road to stop people riding bikes on the narrow pavement.

Sandwell Council is set to agree the scheme for the A4123 New Birmingham Road, Tividale, at a meeting next week. A section of grass verge between Hill Road and Lower City Road will be converted into the new cycle route under the plans. Officers say as the New Birmingham Road is a 40mph dual-carriageway currently cyclists feel safer using the footpath.

Comedy night at Lamp

A Dudley town centre pub is starting new stand up comedy nights.

The Lamp Tavern's first event will be on Sunday, October 4, at 8.30pm.

It is being held in the function room at the back of the Batham's Brewery pub in High Street with admission £2.

Acts have yet to be announced.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE big news this week, on the front pages and trumpeted by TV and radio, is that Facebook is to launch a "dislike" button. The small and rather neglected news is that North Korea has fired up its nuclear programme to make bigger and better hydrogen bombs. Interesting priorities.

HOW phobias work. Those of us with a yabba-dabba relationship with spiders will take no comfort at all in this week's news that a British firm has perfected the spider-proof garden shed. The idea is that no spider can get into the silicone-sealed garden hut. Or to put it another way, if a spider enters by the door which is then closed, it has no escape. It's just you and the spider, locked together, sealed together, mutually terrified. My own shed is well provided with chinks, gaps, knot-holes and other escape routes. At this time of year as I enter, there is a sudden scurry of small things exiting.

BEING a good citizen, I have just completed and returned what the NHS calls the Bowel Cancer Screening Kit and the rest of us call poo sticks. You'd think there would be a law against putting that sort of stuff in the post. In theory, millions of us over-60s are dutifully returning our samples. A friend said that until he did his DIY bowel-cancer test, he had no idea how many things he could balance on his knee at the same time.

I AM often wrong in my political forecasts but I would not write off Jeremy Corbyn too soon. While the Westminster elite have been guffawing at his unpolished speeches or tut-tutting at his refusal to sing the National Anthem, 30,000 new members have joined the Labour Party. The more the Fleet Street pack snap at his heels and the more that smart-arse TV pundits scoff at him, the more the Great British Public sees Corbyn as a bullied hero and suspect there is an Establishment plot against him.

AND tell me, how is an avowed republican like Corbyn supposed to sing the line: "Long to reign over us"? Sing and you're a hypocrite. Don't sing and you're a traitor.

THE total debt on this planet is now almost three times the planet's annual output. Every man, woman and child owes, on average, about £20,000. The sums are way beyond boggling. As one wag asked on the radio a few days ago: "Who are we borrowing from – Mars?"

THE lambs in the field down the road have been gambolling, grazing and getting steadily fatter over the past few months. Now a big sign appears in the field, informing us that from 4pm tomorrow the farmer will be selling whole or half lambs. One of the mercies of being a lamb is that you never learn to read.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

It ended with a kiss at landmark venue

A COUPLE'S wedding day marked the final celebration at a well-known club before a major transformation.

Chris and Laura Morris become the final couple to hold their reception at The Kingfisher Club, in Wall Heath.

The club is now being transformed into a new restaurant – ending almost 40 years of events and gigs at the landmark venue.

The couple, who live in Upper Gornal, said they were honoured to host the final event at the club in Kidderminster Road.

Work is under way to turn the club into a restaurant called Hickory's Smokehouse, a chain which is opening its first West midlands venue at the site.

Builders moved onto the site within hours of the couple's first dance to begin the transformation of the venue.

The couple married at St Bart's Church, in Penn, surrounded by friends and family including their two children Archie, aged four, and Alyssia who turns two next month.

"We felt honoured when we found out it was the last wedding reception at the Kingfisher," said Mrs Morris.

"Tom Evans, Carol Vaines and the rest of the staff were brilliant on the day and made it so special. They couldn't have done more for us and we are really grateful.

"The room looked beautiful and we couldn't have been more pleased."

The Kingfisher Country Club itself was built in the 1930s with a swimming pool when it was known as the Kingfisher Lido. The hotel and spa venue remain open.

Homeless ex-soldier given flat rent free

Report by Clare Butler

A KIND-HEARTED landlord has given a flat rent free to a homeless former soldier – after one Facebook post generated a whirlwind of support.

Generous Chris Foxall turned to social media to offer one of his flats in the Black Country to any homeless soldier to help them get their life back on track.

Just one week later a former soldier has moved into the property in Netherton Road, Dudley.

Ex-Grenadier Guardsman Daniel, who asked for his surname not to be published, says he is 'overwhelmed' by the kind gesture. He was homeless but says he now hopes his days of sleeping rough are behind him.

Mr Foxall, from Stourbridge, appealed on Facebook to find an ex-serviceman or woman who he would give one of his properties rent and deposit-free for three months.

The post went on to generate more than 300,000 shares, and one million likes, with people from around the world getting in touch.

Father-of-two Mr Foxall, 42, said: "It all went a bit mental. I couldn't believe how many people came forward with offers of support, and several other landlords are now looking into doing a similar thing.

"It's been wild and quite emotional too," he added.

Car

"I was touched by the amount of ex-servicemen on the streets after giving such a sacrifice to serve their country, so I wanted to help out.

"Daniel is such a nice guy, and it was extremely humbling to meet him and show him the flat.

"I found him via charity Soldiers Off The Streets who have been a great support."

Erdington furniture shop Cookes came forward to furnish the flat, with locals offering kitchen appliances and free decorating.

Daniel, 37, who slept rough in parks and allotments for three months after leaving the army, was also given a car by a local company to help him on the road to a fresh start.

He said: "I am still in shock, I'm overwhelmed. I've always had bad luck in my life so I'm absolutely over the moon.

"Chris is the salt of the earth. I didn't think there was that type of person in the world. He has saved my life."

A new start — ex-soldier Daniel with Chris Foxall (left) and Bill Murray of Soldiers Off The Streets

New classroom to upgrade facilities

A CLASSROOM for nursery and early years children will be built to replace an outdated primary school building.

Fairhaven Primary School, in Barnett Lane, Kingswinford, has been granted planning permission for the new classroom on the site of a building which has been demolished.

Officials on behalf is the school, in a report to the council's planning department, said: "The school has an ageing temporary mobile structure which is in a poor state of repair and requires replacement.

"The existing building provides sufficient accommodation to educate one whole year group of 45 children.

"It is proposed to replace the existing mobile unit with a new classroom building, in a better location.

"The site of the new building used to have another temporary mobile structure on it, which has recently been removed.

"A new, purpose-built classroom will improve the teaching facilities and learning environments for the Early Years stages."

Building work must start within three years to comply with the planning permission.

Past mayor hands more than £33k to charities

A FORMER Mayor of Dudley presented more than £33,000 to two charities at a special civic reception.

Councillor Margaret Aston, who was mayor of the borough from 2014 to 2015, raised £33,054 for Guide Dogs and Action Heart charities.

Representatives from both charities visited the Mayor's Parlour to each receive £16,527 at a reception hosted by the current Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho.

Councillor Aston said: "It was a real privilege to spend the year raising money for these two worthy causes. I was overwhelmed with the generosity of the people of the borough."

She added: " I hope this money will go a long way to help these two charities with their work."

Among events held for the charities during her year in office were council staff football and cricket matches.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Waltho, said: "The role of the Mayor is a fabulous privilege because it gives you the opportunity to work with community groups and volunteers and help raise money for charity.

"I hope people will support my five charities in the same way they have supported Councillor Aston's so generously."

The charities that the current mayor is raising funds for include The Hope Centre, Halesowen; The What Centre, Stourbridge; More Mascots Please, Brierley Hill; The Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital; and the West Midlands branch of Lupus UK, based in Coseley.

Theatre beamed to a new screen

SHERLOCK actor Benedict Cumberbatch will be among stars projected into Stourbridge Town Hall as part of a deal with the National Theatre.

Productions in London will be shown on a new seven-metre wide screen which has just been installed. A series of both live and recorded performances from the capital will be showcased on the screen, which will also be used as a new screen for the hall's regular movies.

Shakespeare's Coriolanus will be the first production shown on September 24, followed by a recording of George The Beaux Stratagem, which is currently enjoying a run at the Olivier Theatre, on October 6. There will be a live broadcast from the Barbican of Benedict Cumberbatch in his current role of Hamlet on October 15.

Howzat! Cricket club getting a £50k boost

A CRICKET club has been given £50,000 Biffa Award to fund an extension at its clubhouse in South Staffs.

Springhill Cricket Club in Lower Penn was awarded the grant under Biffa Award's Community Buildings scheme.

Celebrating 10 YEARS!

BATHROOM MAGIC

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Reaction as multi-storey car park plan is dropped

THE axing of a long-awaited multi-storey car park scheme in Dudley town centre have been met with a mixed response from councillors.

Dudley Council announced last week it had decided not to go ahead with the plan on land in Tower Street, as it no longer represented value for money.

The council had originally believed the car park could have been built for around £2.5 million but, because it is in a conservation area, costs had soared to between £3m and £4m.

Officials said the decision had also been made following discussions with conservation experts at Historic England.

Plans for a surface-level car park to replace the scheme are now being considered by the authority.

But at a meeting of Dudley Council's cabinet last week, questions were asked.

Conservative group leader, Councillor Patrick Harley said: "It looks like the project has been shelved. I believe the funding was never there and, with most of the car parks within Dudley town centre not being fully utilised, this could have been an expensive white elephant."

But Councillor Les Jones, also a Tory, said he believed a multi-storey car park was needed in the town.

"I am disappointed to see that once again Historic England has had a hand in this," he said. "It is because of them we do not have a new bus station because they said it would be too dominant on the skyline."

Bamboo bonus for zoo's red panda

BAMBOO is springing up across Dudley Zoo's 40-acre site as keepers have started planting roots and shoots donated by the public.

The zoo's ungulates team received more than 20 donations of bamboo roots following a plea for the plants to build up reserves to feed the zoo's red pandas.

Section Leader Jay Haywood said: "We're very grateful to everyone who gave us bamboo. We've now planted these opposite the mara enclosure, at the back for the giraffes, near the Bennetts wallaby enclosure and in the birds section.

"Once these plants are established we'll have a great stock to supply our female red panda Yasmin with daily bamboo."

The Vamps have two arena gigs

POP group The Vamps will be perform at Birmingham's Genting Arena on March 25 and 26. Tickets will go on ale from 9am on November 7 priced at £11.39 to £54.14 from www.theticketfactory.com or 0844 338 8000 .

Five are sentenced over club violence

VIOLENCE broke out between two groups at a busy nightspot, sparking the 'worst disorder ever seen' at the venue, a court was told.

Five people were sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court for their role in the fracas at Stourbridge's River Rooms on January 24.

The court heard bar manager Luke Ellis had been injured as he and security staff tried to break it up.

Ethan Mills, 21, of West Bromwich; Benjamin Wilkes, 22, of Brierley Hill; Geoffrey Hackett, 46, of Halesowen; and Steven and Louise Cooper, both 37 of Halesowen; all pleaded guilty to affray earlier.

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, explained Louise Cooper, of Wesley Avenue, had been seen on the dance floor punching towards the other group.

Mills, of Claypit Lane, who was with the other party, then started to punch at Cooper's group.

Mills had been ejected but mother-of-four Cooper had continued to cause a disturbance. Her husband Steven Cooper then hit out at Mr Ellis.

Outside Hackett, of Apperley Way, had walked up and punched Mr Ellis to the back of the head.

Mr Soulsby said: "Police had arrived. One of the officers was approached by Wilkes who kicked him in the leg. This was the worst disorder the River Rooms has ever seen."

Judge James Burbidge QC said Mills and Louise Cooper, a home care assistant, had been the most 'persistent' during the fracas.

Mills was sentenced to four months imprisonment suspended for 12 months, ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work and ordered to pay Mr Ellis compensation of £200.

Louise Cooper was sentenced to two months imprisonment suspended for a year. She was also ordered to carry out 130 hours unpaid work. Her husband was given a community order for 12 months and 50 hours unpaid work.

Hackett was given a four month prison sentence suspended for 12 months and 100 hours unpaid work. He was ordered to pay Mr Ellis £200 compensation.

Wilkes was given a 12-month community order, 150 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £400 compensation to the police officer.

Borough's jobless total has shrunk by a quarter

UNEMPLOYMENT has plummeted across Dudley over the last year, official figures have revealed, with hundreds of people getting back into work.

Job queues have shrunk by nearly a quarter with the borough boosted by new jobs at firms including Ultimate Outdoors which created 80 positions at its Merry Hill store.

More jobs are on the way, including at Aldi which is set to recruit a total of 80 people for two new stores in Dudley and Stourbridge.

The number of people in Dudley claiming unemployment benefits, such as Jobseeker's Allowance, has fallen by 1,479 over the last 12 months to 5,169 in August.

Although last month's claimant count was down by just one on the previous month, it was part of a success story that has seen unemployment across the whole West Midlands fall by 44,000 – more than a fifth – over the last year, to 156,000 between May and July, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Dudley South Conservative MP Mike Wood said he was encouraged by the falling figures and claimed further support is on the way.

"Our top priority has been a sustainable economy that in turn means more people in work," he said. "It is the Government's work programmes that are giving the support that people need.

"August trends are for figures to slightly rise with people leaving school or college but there is more and more training available year on year."

Priority

Labour MP for Dudley North Ian Austin said: "I celebrate every new job in the area but long-term youth unemployment in the Black Country remains three times the national average, which is why we need to make education and skills our number one priority.

"The only way we will attract new investment to replace the jobs we've lost is by having the skills that new industries need."

The West Midland's unemployment fall, down 21,000 compared to the previous three months, was in sharp contrast to the rest of the country where the overall UK jobless total rose by 10,000 to 1.8 million as higher jobless rates in London, the South East and the North East countered falls in the West Midlands, North West and Yorkshire.

Fabulous flowers, fruit and veg were on show — two of the prize winners, Linda Hickman of Wall Heath and Richard Spiers from Wombourne

Prizes are given for the best blooms

BEAUTIFUL blooms blossomed on centre stage at a popular flower show in Wall Heath.

Hundreds flocked to see gardeners show off their prize-winning produce at the annual event.

The Wall Heath Horticultural Guild and Flower Club show, celebrating its 70th anniversary next year, was opened by the Mayor of Dudley and saw a record number of visitors to the free admission event. It also included a children's section, art and a photography exhibition.

Member and former chairman of the guild, Catherine Turner, said she was delighted with the success of the show. "We had lots of visitors – more than ever," she said. "The refreshments were provided by the flower club and were all home-made, which was lovely."

Around 30 trophies, and medals were handed out by the guild. Dudley South MP Mike Wood attened. He said: "According to many people there it was the best show of produce for a very long time. I was impressed."

To find out more about the guild call Dennis Turner on (01384) 834677.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Building society offers fund help

DUDLEY Building Society has launched its Community Support Fund aimed at helping small projects.

The organisation is offering two donations of £500 and five to receive £100 plus additional support from the building society. Marketing and communications manager Leigh White said: "As a mutual organisation it is imperative we support others."

The deadline for applications is October 5. Request an application from a branch or download at www.dudleybuildingsociety.co.uk/community-support-fund-2015.

£1m project to convert properties

WORK on a £1.3 million project to convert the former Arcal Lodge care home in Sedgley into new council homes has begun.

The building will transformed into six apartments, along with eight bungalows. The project is expected to be completed in March 2016.

Construction has also started to build homes on the sites of former council depots at The Walk in Sedgley and at Norfolk Road in Wollaston.

The former Wren's Nest Estate Office has also been converted into two apartments.

MP's call to cut air passenger duty

A BLACK Country MP has called on the Government to cut Air Passenger Duty (APD) to boost regional airports like Birmingham.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said plans by devolved governments in Scotland and Wales to cut APD would put England's airports at a competitive disadvantage.

He said: "Cutting APD for regional airports would help local people afford a well-earned break at the same time as boosting the local economy."

More than 40 pets are microchipped at park

MORE than 40 pets were microchipped at an event held by Dudley Council and the RSPCA.

Owners brought along their cats and dogs to Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge and more than £80 was raised from donations for the RSPCA and Dog's Trust.

Animals were chipped by RSPCA staff who also answered any pet-related questions. For information on microchipping call the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999 or visit their website

Booking for hall teas

TABLES can now be booked for afternoon tea at Himley Hall next year after the introduction of the teas proved popular. Afternoon tea combines sandwiches, scones, sweet pastries and tea in the hall's grand surroundings. See www.dudley.gov.uk/himleyhall or call (01384) 817817.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

A cultured approach to living a proper life

ARE you cultured? I've always liked to believe I am. I've got the full box-set of The Sweeney on DVD, I always insist on Tesco Classic coffee, and would never dream of asking for lager in a pub. In other words, I'm a discerning man about town who appreciates the finer things in life. Well, Black Country life, anyway.

A new survey reveals a list of 40 things which determine how cultured we are, and for many people it will make mixed reading.

For instance I do have a library card, which is one of the attributes. I read a newspaper every day – well several actually – and don't turn the news off when it comes on television. So far, so good then. But then it gets more difficult. For example, you're probably unlikely to find me in an art gallery – I don't know much about art, but I do know what I like. And it sure isn't the kind of guff you'll get in the Tate Modern.

Watching subtitled films is supposed to be another sign of being a well-rounded individual, but surely if you're that smart you'll be fluent in a different language anyway, and the subtitles will be superfluous. Unless you're watching Taggart, of course. Knowing about different cuts of meat is also cited, and I can tell the difference between KVE Original and pork crunch.

The survey also suggested that a truly cultured person would always want to read a book before watching the film adaptation. I totally agree, but I've never been able to track down the novel to Mutiny On The Buses.

■ ■ ■

The Queen's record-breaking reign has brought the usual dreary protests out from the drab republicans, moaning that there is nothing democratic about an hereditary monarchy. But I suspect if there were a referendum tomorrow, more people would vote for keeping the Queen than replacing her with a boring middle-aged man in a suit.

And if that happened, would those committed democrats respect the will of the people that voted in the referendum? Of course they would. Just like the Scottish Nationalists did.

■ ■ ■

THE end I.S. nigh, screamed the headline. "The defeat of Islamic State is inevitable after nearly half its fighters were wiped out." Some days I really wish I could believe everything I read in The Sun.

■ ■ ■

THE English Bridge Union is now trying to get sitting around playing cards as a sport. And quite right too. Let's just make sure they include pontoon and rummy. And snap, of course. Then I can say I'm not only cultured, but also a sportsman. I never knew my life was so complete.

Tony's engineering expertise helps with each guitar's creation

Accomplished player Sam tunes up one of the latest instruments

Some of the amazing range of instruments made by the Wrights

Strum-thing special for a father and son

SIMON PENFOLD meets a family duo who are hoping to make it in the music world with their carefully crafted guitars

IT has been a long, tough and sometimes heartbreaking journey, but engineer Tony Wright says he is now 'living the dream' – working alongside his youngest son, crafting hand-made guitars in a small workshop in Wolverhampton.

Like most teenagers, Tony picked up a guitar. But unlike most he kept on playing and eventually learned electric bass.

Now, 43 years on, he and son Sam are launching their own business, Lakestone Guitars, and rapidly building a strong reputation for the quality of their work and the beautiful tone produced by their guitars.

Father and son say they have been supported by their strong Christian faith and by their love for their craft as luthiers – a term dating back to the original lute makers of the 15th and 16th centuries. Their current profession is a million miles from where Tony started, training as an apprentice fitter with Robinson Brothers in West Bromwich in 1972.

Redesigning

His engineering career went from strength to strength. Working for an engineering consultancy in Wolverhampton he found himself redesigning the machine at the Cadbury factory at Bournville that makes the Curly Wurly.

"That was in 1982, and as far as I know it's still working today," said Tony, who lives in Gornal.

After completing a two-year degree course at the former Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Tony switched to working in education, and was rapidly head-hunted as design lecturer at Dudley College and then appointed as head of department. Meanwhile, he had taught himself to make electric guitars. "I had been asked to play with a group of musicians who were professionals or semi-pro, and I decided I needed something better than my old Squire bass. I bought one in Birmingham but didn't like the tone, and when I took it back I saw one hanging on the shop wall that used to be owned by Mark King, from Level 42. It sounded fantastic, but I looked at the price and it was £3,500 – a lot of money in the 1980s. So it went back on the wall.

Sam Wright, aged 25, and his father Tony, 59, are making guitars together in Wolverhampton

"I thought, I'm a design engineer, I can learn how to make one. I did it in my spare time, lunch hours in the college workshop."

But in 1989 Tony suffered a massive heart attack. He tried to return to work but the stress was too great and he had to take early retirement. He carried on with the guitar making and repairs in his garden shed, and also worked part-time as a pastor at his church. His guitars, meanwhile, were building a small but appreciative audience among skilled players.

Then, eight years ago, his wife of 30 years died from cancer. "Our faith helped get us through, but I just didn't want to make guitars any more," said Tony. Sam, the youngest son and a talented musician in his own right, was also struggling. "There were days he just didn't want to get out of bed," said Tony. "He had made his first guitar at 13 or 14, so I said let's go and make guitars. I started making acoustics because it was something new for me, we could learn together."

Learning to make acoustic guitars well can take decades, but the Wrights had a stroke of luck. Tony had invented a device called a universal fret slotter that could accurately fit the frets on guitar necks to within one 4,000th of an inch. They have been sold globally and led to a call from world-renowned guitar maker George Lowden. Working on a series of projects at Lowden's factory in Northern Ireland resulted in a masterclass for Tony in the skills and intricacies of making acoustic guitars.

He's passed these skills on to Sam and to his musician friend Dan Clark, who offered the duo his garage in Wolverhampton as their workshop as the business outgrew the shed in Gornal. After months of work, which included turning the garage into a temperature and humidity-controlled environment, father and son are launching Lakestone Guitars – hoping to make at least two guitars a month. Currently, each guitar is the result of around 200 hours of work, although they are hoping to bring that down in their new workshop. Each one is handmade for the client, usually from rosewood but also from walnut, mahogany, spruce, cedar and rarer timbers such as lacewood from plane trees, or even Adirondack spruce. "That can cost £200 just for enough to make the face of the guitar's body, but it produces a lovely tone," Tony adds.

A dense African hardwood called wenge is sometimes used for fingerboards, but the Wrights are sticklers for ebony on acoustic guitar fretboards. The use of different woods is crucial in the distinct sound each guitar will produce, with bodies made of cedar, for example, producing a warmer sound.

Even on electric guitars, the wood makes a big difference. Maple, used for Fender-style guitars, will produce a brasher sound, while the mahogany used for a Gibson style instrument will offer a warmer tone.

Thinner

Alongside a craftsman's knowledge of his materials, Tony brings 21st century engineering nous. He likes making guitars with thinner necks and has come up with a way of using carbon fibre to strengthen them. He is also making guitars with a distinctive fan fret, like his mentor George Lowden. It improves the sound and is easier to play. The company name, Lakestone, comes from the old stone quarry near Tony's original shed in Gornal.

Depending on the woods used, a Lakestone Guitar will be priced at around £2,500. Tony said: "The business hasn't made a penny yet but I hope it will provide a living for Sam and I, particularly for Sam. I am 59, so I'll have my pension soon, but Sam is only 25. I want this to be a long-running business."

Alongside a business they love, father and son have also had some much-deserved happiness in their home lives.

Sam has married – with his pastor father conducting the service – and Tony too has remarried, bringing home a Canadian bride Lonnie after meeting online – "She says she got me cheap on eBay," he jokes.

"She comes from British Columbia, and after we were married her sister came across a batch of rare woods being sold, bought them and sent them to me. What a great sister-in-law is that! I couldn't believe it when I opened the parcel. It was stuff you just can't get over here." For details visit www.lakestoneguitars.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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At least Corbyn offers alternative

LIKE him or loathe him, one thing that is certain is that a Labour Party led by Jeremy Corbyn is, at last, going to offer some sort of opposition to this Tory Government and will also provide an alternative to the Tory policies we have had to endure (no matter who was in power) ever since Tony Blair became leader.

For far too long the Labour Party has just been a mere shadow of the Conservative Party and the leadership seem to have forgotten their roots. It does not seem to have occurred to them that Tory policies are Tory policies, irrespective of whether they are being carried out by the Conservatives or the Labour Party.

Perhaps, in Jeremy Corbyn, we now have a Labour leader who, although not perfect, at least realises that there just may be an alternative to the policies followed by the Governments of the last 18 years or more.

Any MPs who find it impossible to remain within the Labour Party should do the honourable thing.

C JONES
Brierley Hill

Reasons for the lack of lorry drivers

RE: the shortage of LGV drivers. It's not just low pay scales to blame.

There are also other reasons such as impossible schedules, road congestion, satellite tracking, drivers' rules, lack of overnight parking facilities, diesel theft, cost of getting qualified, and the new CPC which all drivers have to do every five years.

There is no safe designated lorry park in the Black Country. Drivers deserve a good night's sleep, not having to worry about any thieving. To park up on Motorway Services costs £20 or more, some hauliers forbid using them.

Any accident the police always check tacho evidence. It's the only job where you can go to jail for working too hard.

It is a skilled job/lifestyle and when delays occur may mean not getting home at night. It is not appealing as a career anymore, which is why there is a shortage.

Just a few things LGV drivers have to put up with.

P WINCHURCH
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Wow, what a waste at New Street Station

WOW, am I mad!

Two weeks ago, our weird, irresponsible, right wing Establishment opened 49km of a mainly single track, rural railway line in depopulated southern Scotland.

Who had heard of Tweedbank?

Next, not a new New Street Station but a new shopping centre.

Out with the Pallasades and in with Grand Central while the underground platforms are tagged along as an afterthought in the basement of John Lewis. They remain dim, dingy and diesel perfumed.

Train congestion and delays are as bad as ever.

The £750m (spent on New Street) could have been put towards building the much-needed additional tunnels at the western and eastern approaches.

Or, the £750m could have been used to restore the passenger trains and stations to the 78km of double track freight lines in the Black Country and Brum that are literally alongside, or near to, the traffic choked roads.

Next fanfare will be for the very short — but still extravagant in an age of austerity — £100 million for a mile tram extension from Snow Hill to Grand Central, as we continue to struggle to get around on our crowded roads and railways.

TIM WELLER
Halesowen

Combined authority an opportunity

THESE pages have included misleading letters regarding the proposed Combined Authority. Their claim is that somehow the Black Country would lose its identity and become subsumed by an all powerful Birmingham.

Absolute nonsense. If we want our proud region to become a forgotten backwater then a sure fire way of achieving this is to turn our back on a Combined Authority. This blinkered isolationist view will see the Black Country missing out on key funding for improved infrastructure and for jobs of the future.

Black Country council leaders need to grab this opportunity and make sure that as a region we have the strongest possible voice WITHIN a Combined Authority to make sure the Black Country's identity is not only protected but promoted. We can't afford to miss the boat on this.

CLLR D BRANWOOD
Gornal

Stick to rules on refugees

I WOULD just like to remind Dudley Council that according to their rules none of these refugees qualify for council accommodation.

They have made themselves homeless and have homes in Syria so this disqualifies them from being re-housed. That's what they told me and I have lived in Dudley for 63 years.

M PARKES
Brierley Hill

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Members are told to mind their language

Trysull & Sesidon WI

PRESIDENT Sue Cotterell welcomed everyone back after the August break and thanked Sue Bicknell for organising the lovely outing to the Leamington Spa Guide dog breeding centre.

Speaker for the evening was Patricia Boyd who advised everyone to "Watch Your Language", a fascinating insight into how the English language has developed. William Shakespeare is responsible for introducing new words and phrases, using many words in his plays and sonnets which had not been spoken before.

Many new phrases recently have come from television programmes, such as Del Boy's 'lovely jubbly'. Others are a combination of two words such as smog or spam.

In order to emphasise we use two words when one would do e.g. spick and span, or vim and vigour.

Punctuation is also most important, and Patricia read out two letters which used exactly the same words, but the punctuation had been changed making their meanings completely different. She finished by reading her favourite Shakespearean sonnet.

Rita Jordan won the raffle and Diane Birks won the limerick competition.

The next meeting is at the village hall, Trysull at 7.30pm on Thursday October 8.

Speaker in time travel adventure

Amblecote History Society

IT was quite fitting, given the theme of John Sparry's Time Travel talk, that when Mike Perkins welcomed members and visitors, only two hours earlier Queen Elizabeth II had become the longest serving monarch in British history.

With appropriate musical intermezzos John initially took the society back to the 1200s highlighting many historical dates and relating to them through historical documentation of numerous characters of the day.

There was some focus on this area with Bobbington, Bridgnorth and Himley all featuring strongly in terms of the instances of royalty (Henry II, Henry III, Charles I and Charles II) all passing through for one reason or another.

One of the most famous or instantly recollected historical events with a link to Himley is the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, the plotters passing through Stourbridge as they learned of the plot's discovery, and making their escape from London.

Several plotters made a stand against the pursuing Sheriff of Worcester and his men at Holbeche House, Catesby was one of those shot and killed. At their trial on 27 January 1606, eight of the survivors, including Guy Fawkes, were convicted and sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered.

John briefly returned to himself in 1963, selling clocks! He related a few amusing tales about real life experiences he encountered. Mike Perkins gave a vote of thanks.

Auction cash is given to legion

Kingwinford Ladies Social Circle

THE Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle met on September 3 at The Royal British Legion, Kingswinford, to enjoy their Harvest Supper.

Chairman Sheila Evans reported that the treasurer Audrey Phipps had been extremely poorly but was now recovering at home. She and Pauline, also a member, were wished a swift return to health.

There will be a Christmas dinner on December 10 at The Station Hotel, Dudley.

Pam Ingman, secretary, read the minutes from the previous meeting and Sheila expressed her gratitude that poorly as she is, Audrey had prepared the treasurer's report.

Finally, everyone enjoyed the lovely buffet prepared by the committee and Josie expressed the gratitude of all members.

The auction of the harvest produce raised £104 which the club is donating to The Royal British Legion to help them after their break-in, and to thank them for their continuing support.

The next meeting will be on October 1 at 7.45pm and all visitors are welcome.

Jam and jewellery sum raised

Tettenhall and District WI

TETTENHALL and District WI have had a very good summer starting with its jam and jewellery stall at Tettenhall fete in July. This again proved to be very successful, despite the heavy rain shower.

All proceeds are going to the club's chosen charity the Haven women's refuge.

In August a very good evening at the Albrighton Moat Trust was enjoyed, starting with a talk and then a guided tour around the gardens. This is all funded by charity which provides educational, recreational, and leisure facilities for mentally, physical and sensory disabled users.

Everyone is looking forward to some very good evenings up to Christmas, starting with canine partners Guide Dogs for the Blind, beauty evening by Clinique, Go to work on an egg and the Christmas party.

Meetings are every second Monday at United Reformed Church, at 7.30pm.

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Brave Jack is inspiration for dad's fundraiser run

Go on dad! Teacher Adam South gets encouragement with his training from his three-year-old son Jack

A FATHER from Cradley Heath is gearing up to run the Great Birmingham Half-Marathon after being inspired by his son who suffers from a rare disease.

Adam South's three-year-old son, Jack, contracted Kawasaki's Disease at eight months old.

He was one of the first children to be diagnosed with the disease at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley. The condition causes inflammation in the walls of arteries, including the coronary arteries which supply blood to the heart.

Mr South, aged 31, from Waterfall Lane, will be running the marathon for Birmingham charity Young at Heart on October 18, which supports families of babies and children with heart defects.

He said: "Young at Heart were amazing to us. They offered support on the phone and via text and we could connect with families that also had children who suffered with heart conditions.

Mr South, a teacher at Hurst Green Primary School in Halesowen, and wife Kate have one other child, Lucas.

Kawasaki's Disease has left Jack with three aneurysms, which require constant treatment. "When you look at Jack he is just like the other children," said Mr South."He has to take his medicine four times a day but does it like a real trooper.

"We know that he is different from the other children health-wise, but he is really sensible and understands things. We are incredibly proud of him."

He added: "I've had so much support, its been great. I'll be running it with my brother, Oliver, too so it will be a team effort."

Mr South is raising money via his appeal page at www.justgiving.com/Adam-South2

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Formidable fraulein is no joke for Jonny

Not laughing now — Black Country comic Jonny Cole discovers his female opponent really means business

BLACK Country comedian Jonny Cole admits he was left 'battered, bruised and squashed' after his charity tussle with a female wrestling champion ended in defeat.

The Wednesbury funnyman took on fearsome German grappler Alpha Female at the Copthorne Hotel in Dudley to raise funds for Women's Aid.

Stand-up comic Cole became a 'lie-down' comedian, spending the majority of the short bout sprawled on the floor, his face a picture of anguish.

In one painful looking move Alpha Female, aka Marie Kristin Gabert, hurled Cole face down onto the mat before pulling him legs akimbo straight into the corner post. The manoeuvre caused Cole's trademark flat cap – which he had refused to remove – to come flying off his head.

"If it hadn't been for the padding I'd have been in serious trouble there," Cole said the day after the event. "I'm still sore after all that gambolling but it was a good laugh and I have to give credit to Alpha Female for trying her best to make me look like I knew what I was doing!"

A crowd of more than 200 saw the action, helping to raise around £3,000 for the charity.

Before the bout the formidable fraulein ramped up the tension by saying: "He hasn't taken his preparations seriously. For that he will pay."

Cole had announced that he was confident of 'putting on a decent show', although his bravado had completely vanished by the time he was in his Lycra bodysuit and prepared to enter the ring draped in the Black Country flag. "When it was time to step into the ring I knew I was in trouble," he added.

The night also featured comedy from Cole, music from The Ronaldos and a three-versus-three wrestling.

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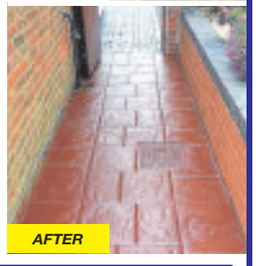
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Jail cut for car gang member

A MAN jailed for his part in a Midland car theft racket has had his sentence cut.

Rocky Butler from Dudley was one of nine men put behind bars for their roles in the theft of more than 80 off-road vehicles, which were stripped and parts sent to the Middle East.

The 36-year-old, of Fullwood Crescent, Holly Hall, was locked up for five years and four months at Worcester Crown Court in December after admitting conspiracy to steal. His sentence has now been cut to four-and-a-half years by judges sitting at London's Criminal Appeal Court, who said the original punishment was 'too long' due to his limited role.

The gang targeted Toyota vehicles and dismantled them, selling the engines and gearboxes to Dubai and the rest for scrap.

Inspectors have told home for elderly that it must improve

A NURSING home has been told it requires improvement.

An inspection revealed it had operated without a registered manager for nearly two years.

The report by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) concluded the Hillcroft Nursing Home in High Street, Wordsley, requires improvement with raises concerns about leadership and patient safety.

The home, which provides accommodation and care for up to 28 people, was rated 'good' for being effective and responsive.

But on management, the report said: "The provider had not met the legal obligation to provide a registered manager and the service had been operating with interim management arrangements since November 2013. The provider told us steps had been taken to rectify this and they had submitted their application to register the manager."

On safety, the report added: "We observed staff regularly carried out positional changes throughout the day which reduced the risk of developing sore skin. However, the monitoring of these risks was not consistent.

"There was no evidence nurses were checking the records to identify any concerns."

Hillcroft Nursing Home specialises in care for the elderly and those with dementia.

The inspection by the CQC took place on July 6 and inspectors spoke with 12 people who lived at the home, two relatives and several staff.

Inspectors looked at the care records of six residents, staffing rotas, staff training records, complaint records and the home's staff recruitment processes.

Bosses at the nursing home declined to comment.

Old girls get back together

FORMER pupils of Dudley Girls' High School are planning a reunion next month. The event is for old girls who started at DGHS 50 years ago — the three classes of 1965, totalling 85 in the year group.

They will have an opportunity to reminisce about headmistress Miss Kellett, the education cruise around the Mediterranean, the overnight walk for charityOld and 1970 choir trip to America.

The Priory Road school was demolished and part of the site is now occupied by Dudley College buildings. The reunion will be held near the old site at The Brambles on Saturday, October 3.

For further details contact Sheila (nee Elcock) on 01584 881020 or Nicky (nee Dodd) on 01405 760113.

Gilli packs trunk for elephants

Gilli Hale from Bilston is setting off to do volunteer work in Zimbabwe with elephants

A FEW months ago Gilli Hale answered an email searching for volunteers and now she is heading towards a two-week trip of a lifetime to help elephants in Zimbabwe.

Describing herself as an average 51-year-old from Bilston with a passion for wildlife, Miss Hale, from Station Road, received an email from World Wide Experience in the summer asking for volunteers to help the Nakavango Conservation Programme in Zimbabwe.

Gilli will spend one week next August working on the Elephant Relocation Programme and the other mending fences, picking up litter left by tourists and visiting local schools to help teach the children about the importance of protecting wildlife.

Miss Hale, attended Hall Green School and has worked for Birmingham City Council for the last nine years and she now works at the Library of Birmingham. She said: "It's a once in a lifetime experience for me and something I've always wanted to do.

"I'm not exactly a gap-year student, but after a lifetime of watching wildlife documentaries I thought I'd just nip over to Africa to save elephants!

"My friends and family think I'm equally mad and brave for travelling to Africa alone.

"Having been on safari in Kenya last year however, I fell in love with that part of the world and cannot wait to go back. There is something about the continent that just draws you back."

In her duties Gilli will be monitoring the local elephant population and assisting in moving some of the bulls to other game reserves. Miss Hale will be trying to raise funds towards the project through her page www.GoFundMe.com/gilliselephants

New move to form West Mids authority

COUNCILLORS are this month being asked to back plans to create the West Midlands Combined Authority after senior Labour figures gave it their blessing.

Wolverhampton council's ruling Labour cabinet had already agreed to put £300,000 towards the £2.1 million set up costs and are putting the plan before the full council.

And Tamworth has now joined the Black Country, Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry in the bid – despite not sharing a border with any of them.

The decision comes despite councillors in Warwickshire voting against working with the rest of the West Midlands on transport, regeneration, skills and health.

The councils are seeking devolved powers from Government. Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall councils are also all expected to join the new combined authority, which bosses have stressed is not a 'super council' and will not take any powers away from local authorities.

Aggressive dog seized

A DOG was seized by police following concerns that it would attack people in Oldbury.

Police say they received calls about a stray dog, believed to be a Rottweiler, 'barking and acting aggressively'.

Officers arrived in Londonderry Road, in Langley Green, following the call at 9.30am on Saturday. Police spokesman Brigg Ford said there had been fears it would attack people. The dog unit seized the animal and it was taken to kennels.

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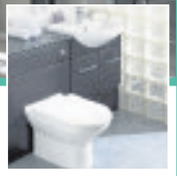

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Pirates on the way to arts centre

TICKETS have gone on sale for performances of Treasure Island at Netherton Arts Centre.

Dudley Little Theatre is promising plenty of swashbuckling fun with the production based on the pirate adventure by Robert Louis Stevenson, from December 2 to 5.

The audience will be shown aboard the good ship Hispañola with the 'stout-hearted honest-types' young Jack Hawkins, Lady Trelawny and Captain Smollett.

But they need to watch out for the disreputable and rather smelly crew headed by Long John Silver and his particularly annoying parrot Captain Flint.

There will be daily shows at 7.30pm and a matinee performance on December 5 at 2.30pm. For further details or tickets see www.dudleylittletheatre.org

Watch out for ace golfer

A GOLFER from Netherton will have no excuse for missing his next tee-time after winning a limited-edition Boss watch for achieving a hole-in-one.

Tony Brown, aged 42, scored his ace on the 151-yard, par-three first at Chesterton Valley Golf Club.

The 12-handicapper was rewarded with membership of the exclusive Boss Watches H1Club and a specially-commissioned commemorative timepiece.

FOCUS ON NETHERTON

Planners give green light for store on pub car park

A PLAN to build a Co-Op store on the car park at a Netherton pub has been given the go-ahead.

Meanwhile, campaigners claimed a victory for people power after two other plans for supermarkets to be built on pub sites were thrown out by planners. It had not attracted the kind of mass support that other pubs in the area have.

by Lee Watton

Plans for the scheme on the car park at The Crown, in Simms Lane, were approved.

The committee was told there had been only four letters of objection to the scheme.

Councillor Asif Ahmed said he believed it was the best such application they had been presented with and could see no grounds for refusal.

Cheers

But campaigners claimed victory for other pubs. Residents have been battling proposals lodged by New River Retail to tear down the Maypole Inn, Halesowen, and replace it with a Co-Op convenience store.

They have also fought plans for a store to be built on the car park of the Ashwood Inn, Wordsley.

The public gallery at Dudley Council's development control committee was filled with clapping and cheers as both those schemes were rejected by councillors.

New River Retail has submitted plans at the sites of several pubs across the Black Country after brewery Marston's sold off 202 pubs in a £90 million deal.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Martin Hughes, spokesman for New River Retail, said the firm would now be looking at its next steps.

"We will decide whether to pursue an appeal on the Maypole and Ashwood Inn," he said. "We have heard the grounds given for refusal and believe these will not be sustained at appeal.

"We were quite surprised the Crown scheme was passed. It seems unusual that they would support that application and not the Ashwood one as they were very similar proposals."

Elaine Taylor, Luke Perry, John Mason and Khurshid Ahmed with the Titanic panels

New panels anchored in place

TWO information panels celebrating Netherton's connection to the RMS Titanic have been installed.

The panels in Halesowen Road celebrate the making of the original Titanic anchor by Hingley's of Netherton in April 1911, and the high-profile installation of a replica anchor in the town in 2010.

The panels were designed by Steve Roberts, of Footprint Interpretation Design, and Worcestershire firm Community First Partnership (CFP).

Artist Luke Perry, of Industrial Heritage Stronghold, took the lead on designing the structures on which the boards sit.

The idea came about after members of the Netherton Regeneration Partnership, a community group, approached Dudley Council. The project was welcomed by the authority and it commissioned Luke and CFP to undertake the work.

Chance to meet police at surgery

A POLICE surgery will take place at Netherton Park on October 28

Officers will be on hand to speak to residents about any issues they want to raise with the police team.

The event will be held in the Healthy Hub building at the park off Greaves Road.

The session, led by Sergeant Rich Cruickshank, and will run for an hour from 4pm.

A second surgery will take place on November 1 at Bumble Hole Nature Reserve's visitor centre from 11am until 12pm.

Recent issues have included a summer spate of vehicle thefts in the area and the dumping of supermarket trollies at Saltwells Nature Reserve.

There are also Dudley Council plans to introduce parking bans along Church Road and Hill Street, both in Netherton.

Walking, talk and read too

A WALK and talk book club will meet at Netherton Library on October 14.

The Books on the Move: Age UK Walking Reading Group meeting is from 10am until 11am.

Refreshments will be served at the library based at The Savoy Centre, Northfield Road after the walk.

Further sessions are taking place at Quarry Bank Library Link on November 4 and at Kingswinford Library on December 2.

Revellers pose for the camera at TheTop Of The World, known as The Grot, in 1979

A pre-Dexy's Kevin Rowland performs with The Killjoys

Boogying away the night on the disco dancefloor during the late 1960s

Cinderella Rockerfellas fancy dress party in the 1980s

A pyjama party at The Top Of The World, at around 1980

Top Of The World to Northern Soul as turntables spin back the years

MEMORY LANE

Report by Marion Brennan

WHEN the legendary Wigan Casino closed in 1981, it was clubs in Staffordshire and the Black Country that kept the Northern Soul flame alive.

As Wigan was in its dying days, all-nighters at The Top Of The World Club in Stafford were opening and for five years set the standard playing 1960s records not spun on this side of the Atlantic before.

Big names played there too, including Wednesfield's own Kevin Rowland with The Killjoys before he found fame with Dexy's Midnight Runners.

Now some of the UK's top Northern Soul DJs are to converge on the Newport Road venue once again, now known as Couture, for a one-off, all-vinyl gig next month as the movement enjoys a UK-wide revival.

Ex-Radio One DJ Steve Wright

All three dance floors at The Top of the World's former home, will be in action, with room for up to 1,500 people. With former Wigan Casino host Kev Roberts named as lead DJ, the event is expected to be a sell-out. Organiser Jane Bewick Green, of Little Haywood, Stafford, who was a regular at the Top Of The World as a teenager, hopes it will attract many of the original club-goers.

The 51-year-old former Graham Balfour High School student said: "My immediate memory of the place was the sticky floor. It was known then as The Grot, I don't know why, but it was the place to go.

"It was around 1980-81 before Northern Soul hit Stafford. Human League were big and we used to make arrangements at school – these were the days before mobile phones and the internet – to meet up later at the club.

"My older friends used to go from Stafford to the famous Wigan Casino and when it closed, Stafford was one of the places Northern Soul migrated to. I really hope my event will kick-start a revival in Stafford. A new Northern Soul club has opened in Birmingham, I'd love it to come back to The Top Of The World on a regular basis."

Rob Smith, who gigged at the club in the 1980s, is returning as one of the guest DJs. He said: "They played the undiscovered stuff and earned respect for that. Stafford had the reputation as being pretty creative."

Kev Roberts, one of the most prominent Northern Soul DJ/promoters in the country, who first hosted at Wigan in 1973, is seen as a major coup for the event. During his early club life, the Gold radio presenter MC'd the Four Tops, Jackie Wilson, Supremes, Miracles, Billy Ocean and other top names.

He said: "Back in 1974, I had two residencies – the famous Wigan Casino and Top of the World. One thousand kids packed in every Monday for the weekly soul night. I even remember chatting to Rod Temperton who was in Heatwave. He went on to write Thriller for Michael Jackson. They were happy times."

The veteran DJ will be joined on the night by Nige Brown (Kings Hall Stoke), Sean Chapman (Prestatyn and Whitby Weekenders), Ted Massey (Kings Hall Stoke), Rob Smith (Top of the World All Nighter original) and Ozz (Wolverhampton Civic Hall).

The club's three rooms will be opening up for the October 23 event, with the biggest room given over to Northern Soul. The other two will play Tamla Motown music from the 70s and 80s. The night will raise money for the charity Street Child's Ebola Orphan Appeal.

Jane is appealing for photographs of the venue in its heyday. Email her at: jane@street-child.co.uk

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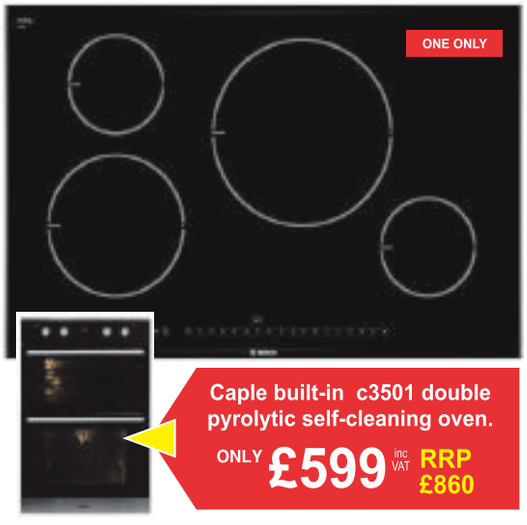

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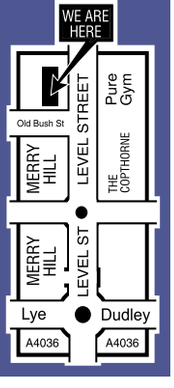

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Watson role filled if Hollywood calls

FOR years the European Union was the millstone around the Tories' necks. Last week it turned into Labour's.

Within hours of Jeremy Corbyn becoming the party's leader and by a landslide majority, Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds joined an exodus of front benchers.

Chief among her concerns was that Mr Corbyn had been highly critical of the EU and might not only fail to campaign to stay in, he might even have wanted to join the side of 'out'.

She was not alone. Former shadow business secretary Chuka Umunna said: "It is my view that we should support the UK remaining a member of the EU, notwithstanding the outcome of any renegotiation by the Prime Minister, and I cannot envisage any circumstances where I would be campaigning alongside those who would argue for us to leave – Jeremy has made it clear to me that he does wholeheartedly share this view."

Five days passed and another Wolverhampton MP, the south east's Pat McFadden, still did not know his future. As shadow Europe minister his role, while not in the shadow cabinet, was surely essential.

But it was Thursday night before he was given the news he wanted to hear – Jeremy Corbyn would campaign to stay in the EU. The crucial reassurance for pro-Europe Mr McFadden was that it was not just a passive promise not to campaign to leave, but an active one to fight to stay in. If Mr Corbyn could give such assurances to Mr McFadden, then why not to Mr Umunna?

He had said on Wednesday night that Labour's policy on Europe was 'developing'. By Thursday it was well and truly formed.

With the party now trying to pull itself back together as the dust settles after a long and drawn out leadership contest, the last thing it wants is its own equivalent of the Maastricht rebellion that split the Tories.

After all, it's not as though the Parliamentary Labour Party are short of things to disagree with Jeremy Corbyn on. Some are less than happy with his own record of supporting Labour. He has rebelled against his own party 533 times in his 32 years.

That means he has voted against Labour more times than David Cameron, who has been in the Commons since 2001. One Labour MP said: "Jeremy Corbyn never paid very much attention to previous leaders' whips so I don't think I'll be too bothered about his." Then the MP saw the positive side and added: "Which means I might get home a bit earlier."

If Hollywood is ever looking to make a movie about the current British Labour party – no, I don't think it's likely either – they will be looking to cast someone as West Bromwich MP and new deputy leader Tom Watson. They need look no further than Nick Frost, star of films such as Shaun of the Dead. The pair are almost dead ringers for each other, so much so Frost tweeted: "I want to thank everyone who supported me and I'm thrilled at my election."

Deputy Labour leader Tom Watson

Shaun of the Dead star Nick Frost

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Tory group leader hits out at slow progress

CALLS have been made to speed up the redevelopment of Dudley's eyesore Cavendish House site — after a senior councillor criticised progress 'as slow as pulling teeth'.

Members of Dudley Council's Conservative group called for a decision to be made so work could begin.

Earlier this month it was announced that ambitious £50 million regeneration plans, which would see restaurants, shops and housing built, had moved a step closer after 18 months of talks. But at a meeting of Dudley Council's cabinet last week, Tory councillors said greater progress should have been made.

Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley accused council leaders of failing to honour a commitmentthat work would have started by now.

"Last year the ruling Labour group committed to real progress on this scheme by the summer," he said. "That has now come and gone, perhaps they meant next summer?

"In the time the council is taking to decide which of the three development proposals for this site to pursue, Dudley College has completed three new buildings, all the size of Cavendish House. Progress on this scheme has been as slow and painful as pulling teeth."

Deputy leader of the council, Councillor Judy Foster said negotiations were continuing.

Other buildings have been planned and built while the Cavendish House scheme has made little progress, says a councillor

Taxi tournament boosts charities

MORE than £1,000 has been raised by taxi drivers in Dudley when they staged their annual charity six-a-side football competition.

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association hosted its annual association cup tournament was held at The Dell Stadium, in Pensnett, Brierley Hill.

Five taxi firm teams and one team comprising members of West Midlands Police faced it each other during the tournament on September 6.

Teams from Beacon in Sedgley, Express in Halesowen, Elite in Lye, Falcon in Stourbridge, Fastline in Kingswinford all took part in the event which was officiated by Dennings Solicitors from Tipton. Elite won the tournament with a 1-0 victory over Express to take the trophy for the third year running.

A total of £1,100 raised in sponsorship was presented to Dudley Mayor Steve Waltho for his charities.

Rock star comedy cameo in Doreen film

FILM-MAKER David Tristram is on to a winner with his latest creation after persuading rock legend Robert Plant and football hero Steve Bull to make cameo appearances in his new comedy movie.

The playwright is launching his new film with a special screening next month. It is a tongue-in-cheek parody of the life he remembered while growing up in the Black Country.

It features former Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant, playing the part of a builder touting for trade, and Wolves legend Bull asking for his ball back after kicking it into a garden.

His YouTube hit character creation Doreen, played by Gill Jordan, is the star of Doreen – The Movie, which gets its premiere at the Majestic Cinema in Bridgnorth on October 18.

The Quarry Bank-born playwright, who created Flying Ducks Studio from his Shropshire home, is married to Sue, manager of The George pub in Bridgnorth.

He said that compared to Hollywood movies his local indie film was made on the slenderest of budgets.

"Our budget is probably just big enough to cover Tom Cruise's typical sandwich bill," he added.

Whole lotta fun — rock star Robert Plant plays a builder touting for drive work in the new comedy Doreen The Movie

Icons

As well as Plant and Bull, 58-year-old David also persuaded BBC news presenter Nick Owen, who lives in Kinver, to take part.

"I wanted to include a few local icons arriving into Doreen's surreal world. Our cameo stars were great fun," said David.

"Robert Plant, who I contacted through a friend of a friend, agreed to play his part after discovering Doreen online. He's now a big fan.

"He literally shot his scene before driving straight down to the Heathrow to start an American tour," said David.

"Steve Bull, another Doreen fan, was equally generous with his time, and Nick Owen, who's appeared in front of camera many thousands of times before, admitted that he'd never acted before, but nevertheless showed a natural comic touch.

The film's theme song, Black Country Kids, written by David, is performed by Kingswinford's Jess Silk and was produced by Stourbridge musician, Rob Groucutt.

David added: "Luckily this style of comedy doesn't rely on car chases, CGI or explosions. It's just an affectionate tribute to the Black Country."

Homes at school site

PLANS for more than 100 homes on the site of a former high school in Rowley Regis have been backed.

Redrow has revealed proposals for the site of St Michael's CE High School in Throne Road.

Sandwell Council officers are recommending the scheme is approved at a meeting this week and have welcomed the re-use of the site.

A Defiant on display in St Peter's gardens, in Wolverhampton, just after the war

No 264 Squadron Defiants seen on patrol during the Battle of Britain

Volunteer Harry Stant, next to the heritage centre's Defiant cockpit

Wing Cdr Deanesly and gunner Sgt Scott, with their Defiant

Top scoring Defiant crew Edward Thorn and Fred Barker

Flying back to recall bravery of The Few

IT IS the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, the last major anniversary when many of those brave Few who fought in the Battle are still with us.

Wolverhampton's highest profile contribution to the battle was the Boulton Paul Defiant fighter, built at Pendeford. Two squadrons of Defiants, No.141 and No.264, fought alongside the more numerous Spitfires and Hurricanes during the Battle, with dogfights taking place in the skies until late October, 1940.

Indeed it was a Defiant which shot down the Dornier bomber that was so publicly raised from the sea bed off the Kent coast over two years ago, and which is now under long-term restoration at the RAF Museum, in Cosford.

On Battle of Britain Day, Sunday September 20, the Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre unveiled their new display about the Defiant, and raffled a unique framed photograph of a Defiant on test flight from Pendeford.

The photograph is signed by five former Defiant aircrew who fought in the Battle – pilots Eric Barwell and John Lauder, along with air

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

gunners Fred Gash and Fred Barker, the latter, becoming the highest scoring Defiant gunner, with 13 victories to his name.

It is possible therefore Fred might be the highest scoring air gunner of all time.

The fifth signatory, pilot Christopher Deanesly has very special Wolverhampton connections. Not only was he born in Wolverhampton in January 1910, his father Edward Deanesly was an eminent surgeon at the Royal Hospital, and the Deanesly Cancer Centre at New Cross is named after him.

Crashed

Christopher Deanesly flew Spitfires during the Battle in 152 Squadron, but after recuperating from being shot down over the Channel was posted to No.256 Squadron flying Defiants.

During the Blitz, he and his gunner, New Zealander, Sgt W Scott, shot down four German bombers, including a Heinkel which crashed in Smethwick. The volunteers at the Heritage Centre are rebuilding the cockpit of a Defiant and proceeds from the raffle will assist with that.

Thorn and Barker with their 264 Sqd Defiant, showing its wheels

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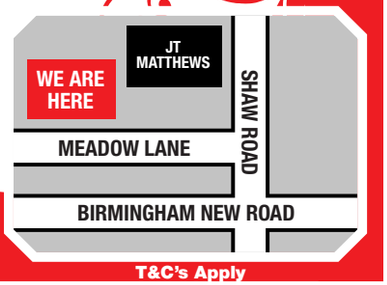

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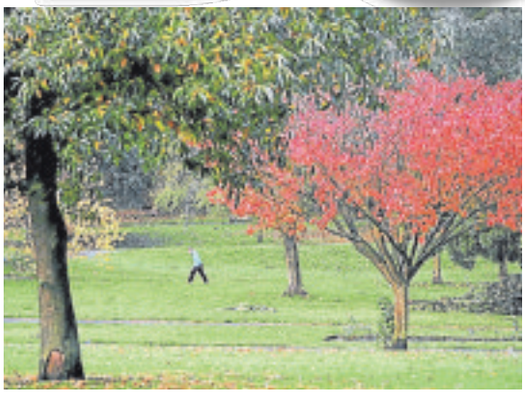

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Cooking course is helping with health

HAVING experienced new leases of life since attending Get Cooking! sessions, residents from across the borough are recommending the course to others.

Providing free sessions on how to achieve a healthy diet, including tips on healthy cooking and shopping on a budget, Get Cooking! is part of the borough-wide Let's Get council initiative to encourage increased activity and healthier eating.

"I have more energy now," said Barbara Maxwell, 64, who lost five pounds after attending Get Cooking! in Dudley earlier this year. "I take more notice of what I am eating now, walk occasionally and would like to walk more."

Stourbridge mother-of-two Rachel Griffiths, 32, attended Get Cooking! in Mary Stevens Park last year. "I thoroughly enjoyed it. It's a fabulous service. Since attending, I have managed to make changes to my diet and my family's. The course provided practical ways to reduce my intake of fat and sugar and get advice on where to purchase healthy and low cost foods.

"I picked up some good ideas and cooking skills," added Clive Naylor, 67, who attended in Netherton. Now confident in preparing healthy, balanced and tasty meals, he added: "I eat more fruit and vegetables and use less sugar and cooking oil. I now feel healthier and more active for my age."

Rachael Griffiths is a graduate of the cookery course

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "Whatever our age, lifestyle or level of ability, it is important that we get active and monitor our diets, for ourselves, those we care for and those who care about us.

"It is comforting to know that healthier food does not have to mean higher prices."

Get cooking! is open to people that live or work in the borough, aged 16 and above.

For more information call 01384 816491, email nutrition@dudley.gov.uk or visit lets-get.com

Councillor David Sparks, cabinet member responsible for ICT

Even more places to connect free wifi

People visiting Dudley borough can enjoy free wifi in more council buildings than ever before following a huge roll out scheme.

The council is extending the range of buildings where people can access the free wifi with the launch of DudleyConnect. Once registered, the wifi can be used at a number of council buildings.

Currently, people visiting libraries can get free wifi on their mobile, tablets, laptops and other devices.

Now more buildings have been added to the list including; The Council House, Dudley Council Plus, Himley Hall, Priory Hall, Dudley and Stourbridge town halls, Cornbow Hall, Halesowen, The Dell Stadium, Brierley Hill, Mary Stevens Park Cafe, leisure centres and many more.

There are also plans to continue providing more venues over the coming months.

Councillor David Sparks, cabinet member responsible for ICT services, said: "As a community council we are always looking for new ways to improve the way people interact with the council. People visiting our venues should expect the very best service and facilities and wifi is just part of this.

"It will have a huge impact for the events that many of them host such as weddings at Priory Hall and Himley Hall and the wide range of shows at the town halls. I hope people make use of these valuable facilities."

A full list of venues are Dudley Town Hall, Stourbridge Town Hall, Cornbow Hall, Halesowen, Brierley Hill Town Hall, Himley Hall, Priory Registry Office, Dudley Museum, Red House Glass Cone, Dudley Leisure Centre, Crystal Leisure Centre, Halesowen Leisure Centre, The Dell and Mary Stevens Park Café

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Queen's record reign celebrated

MORE than 30 people joined the Mayor of Dudley for a special civic reception to mark the Queen's record reign.

A group of people, born in 1952 when Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne, were invited into the council house.

They got to sign a special commemorative book which will be sent to the royal family.

The mayor was the first borough resident to sign the book, which will now tour with him on his civic duties for people to add to.

Visitors, which included Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands, also spent the afternoon touring the council house to look at the civic insignia and tread the footsteps of the Queen when she visited in 1957 and 1977.

Councillor Steve Waltho, Mayor of Dudley, said: "This is a huge milestone and I am delighted to be the mayor of the borough on such a historic occasion.

"It was great to see people in the parlour and talk about our proud royal connections and celebrate with the community."

Wednesday, September 9 marked the historic point at which Queen Elizabeth II became Britain's longest serving monarch. She surpassed the previous longest serving monarch, Queen Victoria, who reigned for 63 years and 216 days. Queen Elizabeth II was crowned after taking over from her father King George VI.

The commemorative book will be available until Monday, October 12, where councillors will have the opportunity to sign it at a meeting of the full council. It will then be sent to the Royal family.

Councillor Steve Waltho, Mayor of Dudley, Mayoress, Jayne Waltho and Peter Tomlinson, Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands, with visitors signing the commemorative book at the civic reception

Karl Denning and Guide Dog Quasia with Joy Brown from Action Heart join the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, Mayoress, Jayne Waltho and former Mayor, Councillor Margaret Aston

Funds will go a long way to help charities

A former Mayor of Dudley presented more than £33,000 to two charities at a special civic reception.

Councillor Margaret Aston, who was mayor of the borough from 2014-15, raised £33,054 for two charities.

Representatives from Guide Dogs and Action Heart visited the parlour last week to receive £16,527 each at a reception hosted by the current Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho.

Councillor Margaret Aston, former Mayor of Dudley, said: "It was a real privilege to spend the year raising money for these two worthy causes.

"I was overwhelmed with the generosity of the people of the borough. I hope this money will go a long way to help these two charities with their work."

A number of events were held throughout the year including staff football and cricket matches. Councillor Steve Waltho, Mayor of Dudley, said:

"The role of the Mayor is a fabulous privilege because it gives you the opportunity to work with community groups and volunteers and help raise money for charity.

"I hope people will support my five charities in the same way they have supported Councillor Aston's so generously."

Top stars project their presence

Broadcast live from London onto the big screen at Stourbridge Town Hall

Hamlet is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare

Benedict Cumberbatch takes on the title role in Shakespeare's great tragedy

BLACK Country people will get the chance to see stars like BBC's Sherlock, Benedict Cumberbatch, performing live on stage via a special satellite link to Stourbridge Town Hall.

National Theatre productions will be projected onto a brand new seven metre wide screen which has just been installed at the Crown Centre venue.

A series of both live and recorded London performances will be showcased on the screen which will also be used as a new cinemas screen for the hall's regular movie events.

The National Theatre spectacle begins with a showing of Shakespeare's 'Coriolanus' from the National Theatre's 2014 season on Thursday, September 24.

This will be followed by a recording of George Farquhar's 'The Beaux Stratagem', which is currently enjoying a run at the Olivier Theatre, on October 6.

There will also be a live broadcast from the Barbican Theatre of Benedict Cumberbatch in his current role of 'Hamlet' on Thursday, October 15.

Future features include the hit Broadway production 'Of Mice and Men' on November 19 starring James Franco and Chris O'Dowd and a recording of Kenneth Branagh's 'The Winter's Tale' starring Dame Judi Dench on Thursday, November 26.

Attraction

Leader of the council, Councillor Pete Lowe, said: "This will be a showcase attraction for the Dudley borough, bringing West End theatre right to our local community.

"National Theatre Live presents top rated shows for people to enjoy at a fraction of the cost of visiting London. "I have already purchased my tickets to watch the production of Hamlet and look forward to attending with my wife Su."

Satellites allow the productions to be broadcast live, without delay, across the UK and Europe.

The screen at Stourbridge Town Hall is one of the latest additions to the National Theatre's groundbreaking project to broadcast the best of British theatre live from the London stage around the UK and the World.

The cameras filming the performances are positioned carefully – and in different places for each production – to ensure that cinema audiences get the best 'seat in the house view.'

Audiences will also get to share in the buzz of a live performance with special introductions and interval coverage. The screen will also enhance Stourbridge Town Hall's cinema offerings.

It will be used to project films for the regular twice monthly movie matinees where customers get refreshments included in the price.

For further information, or to purchase tickets, call the box office on 01384 812812 or visit the website www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/entertainment-live

ADVERTISEMENT

The magic behind our...

Transformations

IT'S HARD to imagine that anyone would leave the sunny beaches of Spain or Portugal to find potential life-changing solutions at a dental practice in the Black Country heartland of Dudley.

But the town's Denture Clinic, considered by some as their final opportunity to find a resolve for long-term teeth problems, has seen patients do just that.

The clinic's prosthetics, prescribed and handcrafted on premises at this multi-disciplined dental practice in North Street, also has attracted people from Dorset, the Isle of Anglesey, the Isle of Skye and London.

Over the last decade, principal Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, has encountered some heart-rending accounts of how ill-fitting teeth have caused unnecessary suffering, eroded confidence, restricted social engagement and been responsible for shocking dietary regimes.

"Thankfully, we have never failed to deliver a successful clinical solution," he says.

"The power of viral marketing never ceases to amaze me as we have never promoted our work beyond the Midlands. But the remarkable reputation the team has built here has found an eager audience – the last challenging case coming from Llandudno," Steven adds.

Remarkable reputation

Quick to point out, the core philosophy of both his Denture Clinic and North Street Dental & Implant Clinic, Steven says: "We don't sell solutions, but provide honest, comprehensive, clinical appraisals that help patients make informed choices." There is no charge for an initial consultation and never pressure. "Sometimes I get patients back a couple of times before they commit. The information is free, as is the consultation.

"If something won't work, we'll tell them, but there's no reason for anyone to put up with uncomfortable and unsightly dentures." It wasn't that long ago that an amalgamation between glamour and dentures was unheard of, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are now increasingly being fused together at Steven's clinics in Dudley, Wolverhampton and Kidderminster.

Evangelical about what new-generation denture prescriptions can achieve, Steven adds: "Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients, reshaping smiles, sunken cheeks and pinched lips.

"Our teeth look real – the aesthetics and attention to detail for fit are astounding – and all prescriptions are functional too."

The current palette of solutions to deliver a more youthful, engaging smile has never been so great, with traditional prosthetics, implant-retained over-dentures and the most popular of inquiries – suction diaphragm dentures.

"Can dentures ever be glamorous?

Emphatically, yes," says Steven, who works hand-in-glove with practice implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL), and North Street's general dentist, Polly Mineva (GDC 188090), a Doctor of Dental Medicine.

Denture problem?

It's not a problem for us

• **Loose dentures** – A regular issue at the clinic often cause by bone erosion in the jaw. Possible solutions include high quality traditional dentures, suction valve dentures, or implant-retained overdentures.
With the Ultra Suction denture system a clever diaphragm principle, triggered by bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

• **Poor aesthetics** – The Denture Clinic is fastidious about the quality of its prosthetics and 'looking natural' has always been its hallmark.

• **Sore spots** – It's all about getting the fit perfect and with an on-site laboratory and cutting edge diagnostics, the clinic can ensure harmonious mating between gums and prescription.

• **Failing teeth** – Under one roof the surgical skill set covers nearly all eventualities, from simple fillings, endodontics (root fillings) to extractions and complex dental implant work.

• **Inability to eat properly** – Denture Clinic prescriptions are 'set' using a Biofunctional Prosthetics System (BPS) which helps with the accurate replication of natural teeth anatomy during the production process.

• **Aftercare** – Always high on the agenda. "We always give as much as the patients needs," says Steven.

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Denture Clinic

Drop in session about foster care

DUDLEY Council's fostering service is looking for great new foster carers to provide homes for looked after children in the borough.

The service is encouraging people who have an interest in fostering to come along to one of their 'Fostering Friday' drop in sessions to find out more.

The sessions take place every Friday from 1-4pm at Flipside House, 292 Stourbridge Road DY1 2EE.

They are a great opportunity for people to have an informal chat with a member of the fostering team and find out if fostering might be right for them.

Dudley fostering offers a rewarding career, 24 hour support, training and guidance 365 days a year and a range of fostering options. Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for Children's services, said: "Lots of people think about fostering but maybe aren't sure if their circumstances fit what we're looking for. That's why these sessions are so important.

"Carers in Dudley think fostering really is the best job in the world and love their communities enough to look after children in the borough who need a home.

"No one has to make a commitment when they attend Fostering Friday, we'd just really like to hear from people who are interested."

People can find out more about the drop in sessions and fostering by emailing fosteringrecruitment@dudley.gov.uk visiting www.dudley.gov.uk/fostering or calling the service on 01384 815833.

Fostering Friday sessions are for people who would like to learn more and no commitment is required at the drop-in sessions

Support for growth of social enterprises

SOCIAL enterprises come in many shapes and sizes and are businesses that trade for social and community purpose.

Taking a cue from the Council's "Love Your Community" campaign, the aim is to help such enterprises to thrive so that, by definition, they can put something back into their local communities.

The aim is to help such ventures, not only to start well to but remain in business for the long term.

Government data from the Annual Survey of Small Businesses UK 2010 estimates that there are approximately 68,000 social enterprises in the UK contributing at least £24bn to the economy. Social enterprises are estimated to employ 800,000 people.

As part of this year's national Social Saturday event, running on October 10, Dudley Council will be using social media to have a conversation and signpost those thinking of starting a social enterprise, or budding social entrepreneurs looking for advice, to the support available in Dudley borough and the West Midlands. The aim of Social Saturday 2015 is to raise awareness of the support available for businesses that trade quality items and services and invest profits into the local community. You can engage with Social Saturday on twitter by following #socialsaturday

Visit www.socialsaturday.org.uk to find out more on Social Saturday, including events running all over the country.

On the campaign trail, Mayor, Councillor Steve Waltho with Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and Mayoress, Jayne Waltho

Save a life and sign up for organ donation

THE number of people signing up to the organ donor register in Dudley is on the rise as the Mayor of Dudley today backed a national campaign to get more people involved.

Dudley Council has signed a formal agreement to encourage staff and borough residents to think about blood and organ donation.

In the two years since the council made the landmark agreement with NHS Blood Transplant the number of people on the organ donor register has grown by 14 per cent. The Mayor of Dudley has also pledged to encourage people to think about blood and organ donation as part of his civic year.

People can save lives by signing up to the register and get even more people involved. It really is a matter of life and death to the people who need new organs or blood. Information is available in all Dudley borough libraries and Dudley Council Plus regarding signing up to the organ donor register.

For more information visit www.organdonation.nhs.uk People can also visit www.dudley.gov.uk/media/latest-news/become-a-blood-and-organ-donor/

In January 2013 there were 60,648 people in Dudley borough on the organ donor register. The figure rose to 68,951 in January 2015.

Path to training and employment

Enjoy development, learning and training opportunities

The partnership will lead to new apprenticeship opportunities

DUDLEY Council has launched an online apprenticeship academy to help people to learn and work at the same time, offering a real alternative to university.

Dudley Council is recognised as the highest recruiter of apprentices in the Black Country, and currently has over 60 apprentices in various directorates on a wide range of programmes, ranging from business administration to leisure.

Enriched

Sarah Norman, Chief Executive of Dudley Council, said: "As Chief Executive of Dudley Council, I recognise how enriched our council services can become by having young people working with us, bringing forth new ideas and suggesting new ways of working for the future."

By applying for an apprenticeship with the academy people have the chance to join the largest employer in the borough and gain experience and knowledge in a wide variety of services that the council offers.

Gaining an opportunity to learn on the job, build new skills and knowledge, gain qualifications and earn income, and most importantly be supported towards getting a job after completing a Dudley Council apprenticeship.

Visit the academy at dudleycouncilapprenticeshipacademy.co.uk to see what opportunities are available.

Alternatively call one of the friendly advisors on 01384 811300 by selecting options 2 or 3.

Also, visit www.wmjobs.co.uk.

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Market stalls for teenage traders

A call has gone out to all young entrepreneurs to take up a free stall and sell, sell, sell when Dudley hosts its first Teenage Market Day.

Teenage traders who want to showcase their products or services are being encouraged to take up a free stall on Saturday, October 31.

Up to 30 stalls will be set up in Stone Street Square as well as a stage for any young performers who want to entertain shoppers.

Dudley's first teenage market on October 1 will provide a platform for young people to make a start and build their business skills

Revitalise

The Dudley Ambassadors Scheme is organising the market with funding from the European Regional Development Fund and Dudley Council.

Scores of teenage markets have sprung up all over the country thanks to the brainchild of two brothers Tom and Joe Barratt who wanted to revitalise their home town's market in Stockport.

The idea quickly took off and has now got backing from the Queen of Shops Mary Portas who described the scheme as innovative and inspiring.

In Dudley organisers want to hear from teenagers who want to set up shop and sell anything from clothes and crafts to artwork and antiques.

They also want to hear from young performers who want to take to a stage in Stone Street Square to put on entertainment during the day.

Nikki Cheung, Dudley ambassador, said: "These days with the internet and technology it is easier than ever to be entrepreneurial and start your own creative business, especially on digital marketplaces like Etsy.

What's great about the teenage market is it gives young people the chance to get out into their local community, meet other young traders, showcase their products and create a great shopping buzz in the town. "

Investment

The Teenage Market will complement Dudley's existing market which has benefited from more than £6 million investment funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Dudley Council.

To book a stall or a performing slot, go to www.theteenagemarket.co.uk and create your trader or performer profile and then apply to take part in the Dudley Teenage Market.

After you have applied, the organisers will be in touch to let you know if you have been allocated a free stall or performance slot.

Find out about the many services available

Free conference for older people

OLDER residents in Dudley are invited to attend the annual free older people's conference to find out more about services for older people in the borough.

The conference takes place at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Thursday, October 1 2015 from 9.30am to 3.30pm and will include presentations from a range of speakers as well as round table discussions.

There will also be a special report on the Age Alliance Survey of Older People's Experiences of Loneliness. Refreshments, including a buffet lunch, will be provided and travel costs will be reimbursed for any older person attending.

To register contact Michelle Raan at Age UK Dudley on 01384 354508 or book on line at Eventbrite.

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Even the Mayor of Dudley has sampled the service

Time for tea at Himley Hall

HIMLEY Hall has released a series of 2016 dates to enjoy its indulgent afternoon teas.

With the summer season fully booked, the afternoon teas will be back by popular demand in the New Year.

Places for October and November are still available, but are limited. Special Christmas indulgent afternoon teas have also now been organised for December.

Afternoon tea combines the classic ribbon sandwiches, scones with fruit conserve and cream, sweet pastries and tea which can be enjoyed in the hall's picturesque ground floor rooms. In addition to tea, guests can purchase a glass of Prosecco or a 'G&T' for a small charge.

To treat someone to afternoon tea, gift vouchers are now available to be purchased for the most indulgent afternoon teas. To book or buy gift vouchers see www.dudley.gov.uk/himleyhall or call 01384 817817.

Statue settles into market location

FAMILY, friends and supporters from near and far are expected to make the pilgrimage to the statue of one of Dudley's favourite sons, the late football legend Duncan Edwards, for a re-dedication service in the town centre.

The gathering will take place on Thursday, October 1 from 10.45am, on what would have been the former Manchester United and England star's 79th birthday, to mark the relocation of his iconic statue to Dudley's newly refurbished market place.

Pride of place at the newly refurbished market place in Dudley

The move coincides with the legend's 79th birthday

Delegation

Mixing both commemoration of Duncan's achievements and celebration of today's talent, the service will kick off with a delegation of Duncan's relatives departing from the nearby Council House. The proceedings will start with music from local performers who will make way for a dazzling, gravity-defying exhibition of footballing skills, set to music, by freestyler Colin Neil.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, will then take centre stage to deliver a welcoming address before Rev Andrew Wickens of St James Vicarage, Dudley leads a floral tribute and two minutes of silence. The service will conclude with another exhibition by Colin Neil.

Councillor Steve Waltho said: "Although so many years have gone by since Duncan died, he remains such a popular figure. We remain so proud of the fact that he came from Dudley and went on to achieve so much in his short life. There's great poignancy for us in celebrating an icon of our past with his statue taking pride of place in our refurbished market place."

Duncan Edwards was among a group of rising young Manchester United players in the late 1950s, named 'The Busby Babes' after manager Sir Matt Busby. He was among the players and staff who died in February 1958 when the aeroplane that was carrying them from a match crashed in Munich. He was just 21 years old.

Brian Mulholland of the Manchester United Supporters' Club, added: "The service will be a very special day in commemorating a football genius, who, had he lived, would most definitely have been hailed as one of the greatest footballers of all time. Sincere thanks go to Dudley Council for all their hard work in organising this magnificent honour.

"On a personal level, myself and two friends, together with our wives, travel to Munich every February to attend a memorial service for the Busby Babes.

"We are glad, as are my family and friends, that the memory of Duncan Edwards has been revered in this marvellous way."

fast theticket

Monster show

Shrek musical at The Grand

See Page 29

NATIVE MONSTER
Entertainment Unleashed

Violin star

Nicola Benedetti in Brum – Page 29

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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23	Southport	4	£479.00
24	Blackpool	3	£299.00
TWIXMAS			
26	London Theatre	1	£169.00
27	Amsterdam	2	£89.00
27	Bruges 2	£89.00	
27	Babbacombe	3	£175.00
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ALBERT HALL XMAS SHOW 12, 19 Dec 2 DAYS £99.95
BATH XMAS MARKET 28 Nov, 5, 12 Dec 2 DAYS £69.95

Travelstyle
Call for brochure
0844 682 0086
travelstyletours.co.uk

Madness

Friday, 9pm
Wolverhampton Racecourse
The London ska legends are odds-on favourites to give fans and race-goers a night to remember when they perform at Wolverhampton Racecourse after the day's racing has finished.
wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk

Alan Carr

Sat, Sun, 8pm
Wolverhampton Civic Hall
Saturday's gig sold out ages ago and so Sunday was added as an extra. At the time of going to press a few tickets remained, but you'll need to be quick about it.
Visit **www.wolvescivic.co.uk**

Maudits Sonnants

Fri, Sat, 8.30pm
Centenary Square, B'ham
Maudit Sonnants will fill Centenary Square with a large-scale bewitching orchestra of bell ringers and acrobats who are lifted skywards to perform a magical concert.
www.birminghamhippodrome.com

The Manfreds

Wednesday, 7pm
Stafford Gatehouse
The 60s group Manfred Mann is now considered one of the finest and most respected bands from the 60s. Their numerous pop hits were R&B based with an undercurrent of jazz.
www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

POP & ROCK

Queen Tribute
Fri at 7.30pm, £22.40
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Madness
Fri at 6pm, £35
Wolverhampton Racecourse, WV6 0PE. Call 01902 390000

Guns Vs Roses: Guns N Roses Tribute
Sat at 12am, £5 - £7
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Joe McElderry – The Evolution Tour 2015
Thu at 7.30pm, £20.50
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

The Manfreds
Wed at 7.30pm,
£19.50 - £20.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Reef
Sat at 8pm, £20
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Spunge
Sun at 5.30pm - 10.30pm, £10
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Joe Longthorne
Thu at 7.30pm, £22.50
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Big Country – Best Of Tour
Fri at 7.30pm, £20 - £22.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Lemonheads
Thu at 7pm, £17
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Wille And The Bandits
Thu at 7.30pm - 11pm, £10
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

The Killerz: The Killers Tribute
Fri at 7.30pm, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

The Wombats
Fri at 7pm - 11pm, £17
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Dave Bainbridge
Wed at 7.30pm, £12 - £14
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Christians & Roachford
Sat at 7pm, £30.25
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Cliff Richard's 75th Birthday Tour
Tue at 7.45pm, £65 - £75
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Bravado: Rush Tribute
Sun at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Annihilator
Wed at 7pm - 11pm, £16
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Ben Khan
Mon at 7pm, £8
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Picturebooks
Thu at 7pm, £7
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Sleaford Mods
Tue at 7pm, £15
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Mods
Sat at 7.30pm, £12 - £14
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Gun
Tue at 7pm, £14
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Hunter Hayes
Sun at 7pm, £16.50
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Simply Dylan
Fri at 6pm, £19.50
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Bluetones
Sat at 7pm, £21
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

A Solitary Man – The Songs Of Neil Diamond
Fri at 7.30pm, £14
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Luke Pickett
Sun at 7.30pm - 10pm, £6
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Enslaved & Grand Magus
Fri at 7pm, £16
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

JAZZ & BLUES

Chantel McGregor
Thu at 7pm - 11pm, £13
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Big Chris Barber Band
Fri at 7.30pm - 10pm, £21
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Jo Harman And Company
Thu at 7.30pm,
£12.50 - £14.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Albert Lee
Mon at 7.30pm, £25
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

SOUL

Martha Reeves & The Vandellas
Sun at 7pm, £20 - £22.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Soul Survivors
Sat at 7.30pm, £10
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

The Lindisfarne Story
Wed at 7.30pm,
£18.50 - £19.50
Lichfield Garrick, Lichfield, WS13 6HR. 01543 412121

Diana Krall
Mon at 7.30pm, £40 - £60
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

The Rua Macmillan Trio
Wed at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £10
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Irish Music Session
Wed at 8pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Nicola Benedetti: Italy and The Four Seasons
Sat at 7.30pm - 10pm,
£20 - £32.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Beats & Pieces
Thu at 8.30pm, £10
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

CBSO - Sibelius Fifth
Wed at 2.15pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
£12.50 - £43
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Pei-Chun Liao
Tue at 1.05pm, £3.50 - £6.50
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Gareth Lockrane's Grooveyard
Fri at 5pm, Free
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Sain Zahoor
Wed at 8.30pm, £15 - £20
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Maudits Sonnants
Fri, Sat at 8.30pm - 10pm, Free
Centenary Square, Birmingham.

The 39 Steps
Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 7.45pm,
£9 - £10
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

I Loved You And I Loved You (Over 12s)
Sat at 8pm, £8 - £10
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Rat Pack: Vegas Spectacular
Fri at 7.30pm, £20 - £21
Palace Theatre, Alcester Street, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Birmingham Weekender: Berending Kumpo
Sat at 12pm, Sun at 12pm, Free
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

Mad About The Musicals
Thu at 8pm, £23 - £24
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Vincent And Flavia
Fri at 7.30pm - 10pm, Sat at 2.30pm - 5.30pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, £18.50 - £45
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Corey Baker Dance: Haka Day Out
Fri at 8pm, £13
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Dead Dog In A Suitcase (And Other Love Songs)
Tue at 7pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £13.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

An Evening Of Burlesque
Sat at 8pm, £27.40 - £29.40
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Masters Of The House Sing The Musicals
Sat at 7.30pm, £23.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Sunshine On Leith
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £15 - £17
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Sancho: An Act Of Remembrance
Fri at 7.30pm, £20
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Worcester On Stage: HMS Pinafore
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Ace Dance & Music: Mana: The Power Within
Thu at 8pm, £8 - £12
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Shrek The Musical
Wed at 7.15pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.15pm,
£16.50 - £44.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

The Shawshank Redemption
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £12.90 - £37.90
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Birmingham Royal Ballet: Swan Lake
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £19 - £56
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Michael McIntyre: Happy & Glorious
Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm,
£35 - £50
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Alan Carr: Yap, Yap, Yap!
Sat at 8pm, Sun at 8pm, £30
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Shrek is taking ogre at the Grand

Go green at the Grand — Bronté Barbé as Princess Fiona, Idriss Kargbo as Donkey and Dean Chisnall as Shrek

BE a believer in fairy tales when monster hit Shrek The Musical arrives at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre for 16 performances from Wednesday, September 30.

Starring Dean Chisnall, who also played the green ogre in the West End, the cast also includes Over The Rainbow finalist Bronté Barbé as Princess Fiona, Idris Kargbo as Shrek's wisecracking sidekick Donkey and Gerard Carey as pint-sized villain Lord Farquaad.

Based on the hugely popular animated movie, Shrek The Musical was seen live on stage in London by nearly a million people and helped Neil Diamond's 1960s hit for The Monkees, I'm A Believer, become popular all over again.

Also featuring a love-sick dragon, a biscuit with attitude and a host of fairy tale favourites, the UK tour of Shrek The Musical is directed by Nigel Harman, who played Lord Farquaad at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

The show runs at the Grand until October 11, including matinee performances, and tickets range from £16.50 to £44.50.

See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01902 429 212.

From tears to cheers

WORLD-FAMOUS violin virtuoso Nicola Benedetti sobbed her way through her first violin lesson, aged four. But the 28-year-old from Ayrshire, who was born to a Scottish mother and Italian father, went on to become one of the most popular classical violinists of her generation.

"I cried through my first violin lesson," remembered Nicola. "I was quite shy and am also left-handed, so I continually picked the instrument up the wrong way. My teacher probably got frustrated and I was just so nervous.

"But from the second lesson on I got the hang of it and really progressed quite quickly. Actually, it was the music moving me to tears that hooked me to the violin."

At the age of eight she became leader of the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain and by nine had already passed the eight grades of music exams. At 16 she won the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition and had signed a £1 million six album deal. Since then she was won two Classical BRIT Awards for Best Female Artist and was awarded an MBE for services to classical music. One of her biggest motivations is encouraging children to take up music.

Last year's Homecoming album, inspired by Scottish music, entered the top 20 pop chart.

She returns to the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday with a dynamic programme inspired by her father's homeland. It will include Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Tchaikovsky's Souvenir de Florence. Tickets start at £20 for Saturday's concert, see www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 345 0600.

Nostalgic string of rock and pop gigs

THERE'S a strong hint of nostalgia on the gig scene.

Scottish rockers Big Country, with Simon Hough taking over from the late Stuart Adamson on vocals, are at Bilston's Robin 2 tomorrow (Fri) and Liverpool's The Christians team up with Cuddly Toy rocker Andrew Roachford at the Wulfrun Hall on Saturday. That's the same night The Bluetones play the O2 Academy in Birmingham.

Jazz singer Diana Krall is at the Symphony Hall on Monday, the same night guitar great Albert Lee and Ralph McTell play Birmingham Town Hall. Cliff Richard has sold out his Symphony Hall concert on Tuesday celebrating his 75th birthday.

Ex-Casualty stars in Shawshank play

POPULAR TV actor Ian Kelsey returns to the stage in a play based on a novella by US master of macabre Stephen King.

The former Casualty and Blue Murder star joins fellow former Casualty actor Patrick Robinson in The Shawshank Redemption, a story about friendship and hope in a prison. It was also made into a movie.

It is staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday. Kelsey plays lifer Andy Dufresne and Strictly Come Dancing finalist Robinson plays prison fixer Ellis 'Red' Redding. See www.atqtickets.com/Birmingham or call 0844 871 3011.

Swan Lake marks silver anniversary

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet begins its 25th anniversary season at Birmingham Hippodrome by performing the most popular of all ballets, Swan Lake.

The company, which made its move from London to Birmingham in 1990, will feature an ensemble of 50 dancers, a sinfonia of 60 musicians performing Tchaikovsky's score, plus Gothic sets and opulent costumes for this romantic blockbuster. It will be staged from Monday, September 28, to Tuesday, October 6.

The city's premiere of First Steps: A Child's Swan Lake, created for families and young children, is on October 2 at 1pm.

Something on the side – a fresh salad

Akbar's, at the site of the former Liberty's nightclub

Chicken makhani, chicken dhansak and rice

Still a nightclub feel, but the interior dazzles

The spice is right at restaurant housed in former city nightclub

IT'S no secret that Birmingham has more than its fair share of Indian restaurants.

So to stand the test of time, you've really got to offer something different – as well as pull the diners in.

I consider myself a massive fan of Indian food, but I always go to the same place and choose my favourite dish each time.

I'm almost nervous to try something.And I'm not a fan of 'fancy' curry houses. I love old, traditional, basic food, that comes in a balti dish and costs less than a tenner for a full meal. And where I can take my own wine.

Every now and then, though, it's nice to get dressed up and splash out a bit, so with that in mind I headed to Akbar's on Hagley Road. I first visited when it opened back in 2009 and judging by how my recent visit, it is as popular as ever.

By Lisa Wright

Those old enough to remember will know it as the former Liberty's nightclub. Younger readers will know it as the big white building next door to TGI Friday's.

The venue underwent a massive transformation when it opened, and it appeared to have lost none of its sparkle on my recent visit.

We ordered a bottle of Malbec and made ourselves comfy while we waited for our table which we were told could be up to 45 minutes. But much to our delight, our table was ready in 15 minutes.

There was almost a party atmosphere inside, with a real feeling of celebration being enjoyed by the other diners, so with it being so busy, I was worried that service would suffer. However, we were really well looked after. The starter menu has all the usual favourites,but there were also plenty of what I'd describe as more unusual dishes. Take for example the liver tikka and the rabbit tikka which comes served with a strawberry chutney.

Tempting options included the chicken wings, seasoned with spices in a yogurt marinade and cooked over charcoal. The keema and cheese samosas – minced lamb with onions and sweetcorn in pastry – also sounded right up my street.But in the end, we played it safe and went for poppadoms and the onion bhaji.

The poppadoms were crunchy and crisp, exactly what you want, while the bhaji, made with onion and potato, was again very tasty. It came in a light batter that wasn't too heavy, while the raita was creamy and cool, the perfect accompaniment.

We also chose our favourites for main courses – chicken dhansak and chicken tikka makhani. I'd hoped for a sweet and sour flavour sauce with my dhansak, with huge chunks of chicken and pineapple, but in all honesty it fell a bit flat. Rather than lots of meat, I felt the dish was loaded down with lentils and sweetcorn. The flavour was good, and I mopped up the sauce with a naan bread, but if I was to order it again, I definitely wouldn't expect to see so much sweetcorn.

There was better luck for my friend whose chicken tikka makhani was thoroughly enjoyed. The sauce was mild and creamy and given a massive thumbs-up. The accompanying pilau rice was spot on, with the grains all delightfully fluffy and separated.

I enjoyed the experience at Akbar's. I'd probably go for a different main course next time, but my choice wouldn't stop me from going back.

CHOICE

Tess Daly

Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 6.15pm)
Following last night's first live edition, in which the first six celebrity hoofers made their dance-floor debuts – not counting the group number they all exuberantly threw themselves into in the launch show earlier this month - Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman introduce the nine celebrities who have been patiently waiting in the wings, ready to show off what they've learned in the rehearsal room – or not, in the case of any potential John Sergeants and Ann Widdecombes. With no public vote or elimination this weekend, the scores given by judges Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell are carried over to next week, when the first couple will leave the competition.

BBC1

6.00 Live Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix – Qualifying. **8.30** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix – Qualifying Replay. **2.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.15** Money for Nothing. **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30** Pointless Celebrities.

6.15 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the second of this weekend's live shows, in which the remainder of the couples take to the floor.

7.45 Doctor Who. It's only the second episode of the new series, and already the chief writer Steven Moffat has put the Time Lord in mortal peril, making him a prisoner of the creatures that hate him most in the universe. Finding himself alone on the terrifying Dalek planet Skaro – with no sonic screwdriver, no Tardis and no one to help – the Doctor only has his wits to keep him alive. Now he faces his greatest temptation – can he resist? And will there be any mercy? Peter Capaldi stars as the time-hopping adventurer.

8.35 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Gaby Roslin hosts the National Lottery draws, and there is a performance by Simply Red.

9.25 Casualty. Terror comes to Holby. Starring Amanda Mealing.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker introduces highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City at White Hart Lane and Leicester City v Arsenal at the King Power Stadium. Spurs have endured a difficult start to the season, and their fixture against the title favourites was likely to provide an indication as to whether they can challenge for a place in the top four this term.

12.05 Film: Mystery Road. (2013) **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05** BBC News. **5.00** Live Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix.

BBC2

6.10 Film: Journey into Fear. (1943) **7.20 Film:** Apache Territory. (1958) **8.30** F1 Rewind: Rivalries. **9.30** Racing Legends: Stirling Moss. (R) **10.30** Animal Park. (R) **11.00** More Creatures Great and Small. (R) **11.30** More Creatures Great and Small. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **1.30** Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry. (R) **2.30** Coast. (R) **3.15** World's Busiest Railway 2015. (R) **4.15** Flog It! (R) **5.15** The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R)

6.15 Gardeners' World. Joe Swift visits a "drinkable" allotment in London, where much of the produce is grown to make beer, wine and cider. Plus, the first of a five-part feature about botany. (R)

6.45 Africa's Fishing Leopards: Natural World. David Attenborough narrates a documentary following a leopard and its cubs in Botswana, with the cats having to learn how to fish to have any chance of survival. (R)

7.45 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and his platoon are put in charge of manning an observation post on a derelict pier, but they are marooned when their boat drifts away. (R)

8.15 Film: Midnight's Children. (2012) Premiere. Two babies are born at midnight on the day India becomes independent of British rule in 1947, but are switched at birth. As the two children grow to adulthood, one in wealth the other in poverty, they find their lives are constantly intertwined while the nation around them experiences sweeping social change. Drama based on Salman Rushdie's novel, starring Satya Bhabha.

10.30 Cradle to Grave. The thought of paying for daughter Sharon's dream wedding is giving Fred sleepless nights, while Danny takes up photography – inspired by the tutoring of his sexy French teacher. (R)

11.00 Boy Meets Girl. With Tony and Pam away, Leo and Judy plan to spend their first night together, but he loses his nerve and romance soon drops off the agenda. (R)

11.30 Film: A Walk to Remember. (2002) Romantic drama, starring Mandy Moore and Shane West.

1.05 Film: Strawberry Fields. (2012) **2.30** This Is BBC Two. **5.45** Countryfile. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Fish Hooks. **7.20** Horrid Henry. **7.35** Adventure Time. **8.00** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Unforgettable Benny Hill. (R) **10.15** The X Factor. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Downton Abbey. (R) **2.00** Rugby World Cup. Italy v Canada (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Rugby World Cup. South Africa v Samoa (Kick-off 4.45pm).

6.55 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 ITV News; Weather.

7.15 Rugby World Cup. England v Wales (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the Pool A encounter at Twickenham, where the old rivals meet in arguably the most eagerly awaited fixture of the pool stage. Since the draw was made, this pool has been regarded as by far the toughest, with Australia also involved, due to the Welsh being seeded ninth at the time and therefore regarded as one of the third tier of nations. However, their recent record against England shows there is little to call between the nations, and Stuart Lancaster's men will be delighted to have the benefit of home advantage, with Wales playing here in both of their key fixtures in the pool. There is little love lost between the two, and England will be looking for a third successive victory over Warren Gatland's side, having beaten their opponents in the Six Nations in Cardiff in February in their last encounter. While qualifying for the quarter-finals is the initial aim, there is also an incentive to finish top of the pool and secure a potential route to the final that is expected to avoid defending champions and favourites New Zealand.

10.20 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon hosts a revival of the classic game show in which panellists Antony Cotton, Sara Cox and Jimmy Carr are challenged to identify the homes of the rich and famous.

11.20 ITV News; Weather.

11.35 Rugby World Cup Highlights.

12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00** Show Me the Telly. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.30** Challenge Weymouth. **7.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **11.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **11.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of races at Newmarket and Market Rasen. **4.10** Channel 4 News. **4.30** Couples Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Couples Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp is in the countryside surrounding Edinburgh helping Ian find a new home – but it soon becomes clear that he is more interested in finding the right shed for his collection of cars and tools than somewhere to lay his head. Phil Spencer is with Rogan and Jane, who suffer from chronic indecision when it comes to house hunting – and that's the least thing they need as they have to find a home fast before their first baby arrives in three months' time. (R)

7.00 Celebrity Benchmark. New series. Paddy McGuinness hosts a celebrity version of the game show in which contestants Jimmy Carr and Joey Essex must decide how 10 members of the great British public answered a series of tricky numerical questions – then simply decide whether the correct answer is higher of lower.

8.00 Film: Snow White & the Huntsman. (2012) An evil queen learns that her reign will last for ever if she kills a princess, so sends a renowned warrior to find and murder her. However, he comes to realise his mistress's evil ways, and instead trains his intended victim to fight so they can bring the tyrant's rule to an end. Fantasy adventure, with Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth and Charlize Theron.

10.30 Film: Van Helsing. (2004) A vampire slayer sets out to help a gypsy princess vanquish Count Dracula and his three brides once and for all. Action adventure, starring Hugh Jackman.

1.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.00** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.05** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.25** Deal or No Deal: Double Trouble – Grandparents. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.30** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.30** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **1.20 Film:** Columbo Cries Wolf. (1990) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.20 Film:** Columbo: Death Hits the Jackpot. (1991) **5.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)

6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul and Steve call for urgent police back-up after opening a locked wooden case they find while carrying out an eviction notice at a flat in London's Docklands. (R)

7.10 Fail Army. New series. A collection of viral videos that have already found billions of fans on the internet, including painful prat-falls and hilarious animal antics.

7.35 Fail Army. This week's collection of viral videos focuses on the fearless and recklessly ambitious, including a gymnast who kicks the girl he is trying to impress in the ribs.

8.00 Now That's Funny! New series. A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring laugh-out-loud unexpected personal moments now being shared with the world.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, including the west London derby between Fulham and Queens Park Rangers in the Championship. Friday's game was the first time the sides had met in this division since the 2000/01 season, when the Cottagers did the double over Rangers on their way to the title and promotion to the Premier League. QPR were relegated to the third tier at the end of that season, where they would stay until gaining promotion in 2004. Plus, action from the other Championship games, as well as all the goals from League One and League Two.

10.30 Stevie Wonder: An All-Star Grammy Salute. An all-star line-up including Beyonce, Lady Gaga and Ed Sheeran salute Stevie Wonder with songs from his stellar songbook, before the man himself takes the stage. (R)

12.15 The Gadget Show. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Spike Fight Night: BAMMA. **4.50** Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear: The Best of Series 22 **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00 Film:** The 51st State (2001) **11.25** Family Guy **1.40** Russell Howard's Good News **2.10** Orphan Black **3.35** People Time **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Operation Jericho **8.00** The Engine That Powers the World: Timeshift **9.00** Beck: The Family **10.30** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **11.30** Hot Chocolate at the BBC **12.30** Boogie Fever: A TOTP2 Disco Special **2.00** Nile Rodgers: The Hitmaker **3.00** The Joy of Disco **4.00** Close

ITV2
12.05 You've Been Framed! **1.05** The X Factor **3.10** The Xtra Factor **4.15** Catchphrase **4.55 Film:** Nim's Island (2008) **6.50 Film:** Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **9.00 Film:** The Back-up Plan (2010) **11.15** Celebrity Juice: Ultimate £ThrowBackThursday Special **12.00** Safeword **1.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.50** Crazy Beaches **2.15** Animal Practice **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.40 Foyle's War **6.55** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.15** Wire in the Blood **1.35** Murder, She Wrote **2.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.40 The Professionals **12.45** Pawn Stars **2.05** British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.10 Film:** Rio Bravo (1959) **6.00** Storage Wars: New York **7.00** Storage Wars **7.30 Film:** Cannonball Run II (1984) **9.45 Film:** National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1 (1993) **11.30 Film:** First Blood (1982) **1.20** Minder **2.20** Hogan's Heroes **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 The Goldbergs **12.00 Film:** Hop (2011) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.00 Film:** Maid in Manhattan (2002) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory: Top 5 Penny **10.30** Gogglebox **12.35** Bad Robots **1.10** Rude(ish) Tube **1.40** How I Met Your Mother **2.35** The Inbetweeners **3.25** 2 Broke Girls **3.50** How I Met Your Mother **4.10** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.35** Revenge

Film4
11.00 Guadalcanal Diary (1943) **1.00** Dear John (2010) **3.20** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **5.45** Avatar (2009) **9.00** Black Hawk Down (2001) **12.00** Piranha 3DD (2012) **1.40** Clerks (1994) **3.35** Close

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CHOICE

Thomas Turgoose

This Is England '90 (Channel 4, 9pm)
Life begins to take a darker turn as autumn draws in and honesty, loyalty and forgiveness are tested to the limit among the group of young friends in the penultimate episode of Shane Meadows' 1990-set drama. Lol finds herself confronted with a seemingly impossible task and is forced to face up to some uncomfortable truths. Kelly continues on her downward spiral, while Shaun escapes the troubles of the present with a trip down memory lane. Starring Vicky McClure, Thomas Turgoose, Chanel Cresswell, Andrew Ellis, Andrew Shim, Billy Braithwaite, Danielle Watson and Helen Behan.

BBC1

9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix Replay. **3.15** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.15** Points of View. **5.30** Songs of Praise.
6.05 BBC News.
6.20 Regional Programme.
6.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison present this year's One Man and His Dog competition, from Chirk Castle, North Wales, and discover the conservation work being carried out in the area. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
7.30 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Broughton Castle, near Banbury, Oxfordshire, where finds include a book of police mug shots, a Victorian baby bouncer and a musical penknife.
8.30 Cider with Rosie. Anyone who studied English Literature in the 1980s will know this story immediately as Cider with Rosie was the set text for a generation of school pupils. Now BBC One presents it as the latest in their season of classic 20th-century literature adaptations. Laurie Lee's autobiographical memoir is an evocative coming-of-age story set in an idyllic Cotswold village during and after the First World War. It follows Young Loll as he experiences first love, loss and family upheaval while growing to manhood in an environment seemingly untouched by the trappings of the modern world. Samantha Morton, Jessica Hynes, Ruby Ashbourne Serkis and June Whitfield star.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Watford v Crystal Palace at Vicarage Road, and all the goals from Saturday's fixtures.
11.20 The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.
11.50 Imagine. (R)
12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 Gardeners' World. (R) **7.15** The Beechgrove Garden. **7.45** Match of the Day. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** Great British Menu. (R) **11.15** Great British Menu. (R) **11.45** Great British Menu. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.00** Cycling. **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise. (R)
6.30 World's Weirdest Events. Chris Packham presents more amazing stories, unearthing a whirlwind wedding ceremony. (R)
7.30 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Jo Brand and three celebrity fans of BBC One's baking contest discuss the good and the bad of an episode in which the challenges included a brief to create a religieuse à l'ancienne, namely three tiers of choux pastry eclairs filled with creme pat, iced and decorated with buttercream. There is also unseen footage from the programme and an interview with the latest contestant to be eliminated. (R)
8.00 Top Gear: Best of Series 22. The team looks back at highlights of the motoring series, including the fastest new models, the most desirable classics and the craziest stunts.
9.00 Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week. The ten remaining recruits are overseen by a representative of a Russian special forces unit. He requires them to carry heavy weights through the gruelling hills of south Wales.
10.00 Family Guy. Meg gets a job at the airport, while Cleveland becomes a therapist and gives relationship advice to Peter and Lois.
10.25 Family Guy. Brian discovers that the cure for cancer is being kept secret.
10.45 Family Guy. Brian uses Stewie's time machine to impress women at bars, but ends up breaking it and causing time to move in reverse. When they try to rebuild it, it explodes.
11.10 Film: Youth in Revolt. (2009) An awkward 16-year-old meets the girl of his dreams on holiday and embarks on a series of elaborate misadventures to be with her. Comedy, starring Michael Cera.
12.35 Film: Love Like Poison. (2010)
1.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.50** Holby City. (R) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Fish Hooks. **7.20** Horrid Henry. **7.35** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.00** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.00** Horrible Science. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** Rugby World Cup. **1.55** Rugby World Cup. Scotland v USA (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Rugby World Cup.
6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.55 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 The X Factor. The contestants face the next stage of Boot Camp as they perform for judges Nick Grimshaw, Rita Ora, Cheryl Fernandez-Vicini and Simon Cowell in the grand surroundings of a country house. If they succeed in impressing the panel, they stand to win one of the coveted places in the six chair challenge and be one step closer to victory.
9.00 Downton Abbey. It's the final series of Julian Fellowes hugely successful upstairs-downstairs drama, but fans needn't shed a tear just yet, as there are still seven episodes to go, plus a Christmas special to wrap things up. Tonight, plans for the wedding are gathering steam, but Lady Mary's meddling lands Carson in trouble with Mrs Hughes. Cora and Violet clash over plans for the hospital takeover, and Thomas's job search is proving disheartening. Mary comes up with a fresh idea that offers Anna fresh hope, prompting a trip to London, and Lady Edith faces challenges at the magazine although it's a problem closer to home that reaches breaking point. A day for the family and servants ends in panic and leaves Robert facing a difficult decision.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.20 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Australia v Uruguay, Scotland v USA and Ireland v Romania. Action from the Pool-stage matches, which took place at Villa Park, Elland Road and Wembley Stadium respectively.
11.20 Perspectives: Eddie Redmayne on War Art. (R)
12.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.20** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** The Grid. **7.05** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25 Film:** Beaches. (1988) Drama, starring Bette Midler and Barbara Hershey. **3.45 Film:** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold. (2009) Comedy sequel, starring Rupert Everett. **5.50** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.
6.45 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Time Crashers. The final challenge takes the celebrities back to the Iron Age to experience life in 43AD. Greg Rutherford and Meg Mathews are elected as the group's tribal chiefs and they have two days to prepare a Celtic feast, as well as dealing with the more pressing concerns of heat, light and food. Jermaine Jenas struggles to get to grips with making fire and Chris Ramsey has trouble skinning a deer in the dark. Last in the series.
8.00 First Humans: The Cave Discovery. Documentary following the discovery of fossilised remains in a South African cave that were revealed to have come from a previously unknown species of human ancestor.
9.00 This Is England '90. Life begins to take a darker turn as autumn draws in and honesty, loyalty and forgiveness are tested to the limit among the group of young friends in the penultimate episode of Shane Meadows' 1990-set drama. Lol finds herself confronted with a seemingly impossible task and is forced to face up to some uncomfortable truths. Kelly continues on her downward spiral, while Shaun escapes the troubles of the present with a trip down memory lane. Starring Vicky McClure, Thomas Turgoose and Chanel Cresswell.
10.05 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)
11.10 Film: This Is 40. (2012) Premiere. Comedy, starring Paul Rudd.
1.40 World of Weird. (R) **2.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.45** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.55** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.30** Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.55 Film:** 2012. (2009) Disaster movie, starring John Cusack. **4.50 Film:** Planet of the Apes. (2001) Sci-fi adventure remake, starring Mark Wahlberg.
7.00 Film: Jackie Chan's The Forbidden Kingdom. (2008) An American teenager obsessed with kung fu movies is sent back in time to ancient China, where he joins the battle to free the imprisoned Monkey King. The only problem is he has no martial arts skills of his own, and will need the assistance of two legendary warriors to become the hero he needs to be. Martial arts adventure, starring Jet Li and Jackie Chan. Edited for violence and language.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Film: Just Go with It. (2011) Premiere. A plastic surgeon pretends to be unhappily married to seduce women. When his girlfriend finds his prop wedding ring, he claims he is getting a divorce and has to persuade his assistant to pose as his soon-to-be ex-wife, but is forced to come up with yet more lies to maintain the illusion. Romantic comedy, starring Adam Sandler, Jennifer Aniston and Nicole Kidman.
10.55 Film: Welcome to the Jungle. (2003) A bounty hunter on a rescue mission in the rainforest is drawn into a quest for a legendary artefact. Action comedy, with Dwayne Johnson, Seann William Scott and Christopher Walken.
12.45 Tattoo Disasters UK. Body art tributes to family members. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Transporter: The Series. **4.00** House Doctor. A country cottage in Northamptonshire. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix – Highlights **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011) **11.05** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad! **12.10** Family Guy **12.35** Top Coppers **1.00** Fried **1.30** Orphan Black **3.00** Girls Can Code **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Arvo Part/Robert Wilson: The Lost Paradise **8.00** The Last Journey of the Magna Carta King **9.00** Egypt's Lost Cities **10.30 Film:** Ilo Ilo (2013) **12.05** Britain's Most Fragile Treasure **1.05** Bought with Love: The Secret History of British Art Collections **2.05** Britain on Film: This Sceptred Isle **2.35** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **3.35** Close
ITV2
12.35 Catchphrase Celebrity Special **1.35** You've Been Framed! **3.10 Film:** Nim's Island (2008) **5.05 Film:** The Polar Express (2004) **7.00 Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00 Film:** 300 (2006) **12.20** Viral Tap **1.05** Reality Bites **1.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.10** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.35 Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide **2.30** Foyle's War **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.35** City Lights **11.35** Wycliffe **1.15 Film:** Ooh, You Are Awful (1972) **2.50** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.15** Emmerdale
ITV4
6.30 Goodwood Cars of the Future – Racing **7.30** Goodwood Revival 2015 **8.30** Storage Wars **9.00 Film:** Waterworld (1995) **11.40 Film:** Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **1.45** Hell on Wheels **2.40** Motorway Patrol **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Film: Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **2.15** Rude(ish) Tube Short **2.30** Couples Come Dine with Me **4.30** Bad(ish) Robots **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Star Trek (2009) **10.30** The Inbetweeners **11.30** The IT Crowd **12.35** Rude Tube **1.40** Young, Free & Single **2.45** Rules of Engagement **3.35** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 Man Without a Star (1955) **1.00** City of Ember (2008) **2.55** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **4.40** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **6.30** A Good Year (2006) **9.00** Kingdom of Heaven (2005) **12.45** Lesson of Evil (2012) **3.25** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Battu's Bioscope, Channel 4, 2am
Andrzej Fidyk's documentary about a mobile cinema run by Mr Battu and his two assistants, the young Amit and 80-year-old Mama. They travel in a rickety old truck and show B-grade Indian movies using an ancient projector and a few white sheets. (1999)

TUESDAY
Finding a Family, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A teenager who was placed in the care of the state after a car crash left his mother unable to cope devotes himself to his academic career, hoping to gain a place in a respected university. Fact-based drama, starring Jared Abrahamson and Kim Delaney. (2011)

WEDNESDAY
Sliding Doors, BBC1, 11.45pm
A London woman's entire future hinges on whether or not she catches a train. In one version of events, she gets the chance to start afresh and lead a happy new life, but in the other she is stuck supporting her lazy, unfaithful boyfriend. Comedy drama, presenting two parallel stories featuring the same character. Starring Gwyneth Paltrow and John Hannah. (1998)

The Expendables, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY
The Expendables, Channel 5, 10pm
A mercenary leads his elite team on a mission to assassinate a South American dictator, only to find their target is merely a pawn and the real power in the country is a rogue CIA agent. Feeling they have been double-crossed, they abandon the operation – but are compelled to return and save a captured rebel. Action thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone. With Jet Li. (2010)

FRIDAY
Fast & Furious, ITV, 11.20pm
News of a friend's murder brings international fugitive Dominic Toretto back to his home city of Los Angeles in search of revenge. It is not long before his pursuit leads him to cross paths with FBI agent Brian O'Conner, and despite their hostile feelings toward each other, the pair work together to bring down those responsible. Thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel, Paul Walker and Jordana Brewster. (2009)

Carol plays host to the heroes of the Nation

Have your hankies at the ready because one of the most moving ceremonies of the year is with us again.

Of course, Carol Vorderman is no stranger to The Pride of Britain Awards, but she admits they don't get any easier to host after all these years.

"It's a massive show to do, the volume that you have to learn and hold and you have to get the tone right," she explains.

"It's a massive show for one person to do so I'm exhausted by the end of it, absolutely drained. But I'm also on a high. Then when I watch it, that's when the emotion comes out."

Now in its 17th year, the star-studded gala at London's Grosvenor House Hotel will be packed with uplifting and moving stories of courage, selflessness and achievement against the odds.

Carol admits she's rather proud to be involved once more.

"I've been part of it for so long now, ever since it started 17 years ago. I'm not just someone who is brought in on the night, I've lived it and breathed it."

Is there any winner that stood out for her?

"There have been loads really. The saddest ones are the children who have been ill and then have either raised a lot of money for charity or done something remarkable and then get ill again and are no longer with us and that's really hard, it really knocks it home."

One of the reasons the shows works so well each year is the fact Carol and the winners get to know each other with a big dinner the night before.

"Because everybody travels down to London from all over the country, it's the first time they have met each other and we introduce them all.

"I try to sit and talk with everybody and at the end of the dinner I go through all of their stories, and what's remarkable is every single one of them turns around and says 'I shouldn't be here, I'm not worthy.'

They are so modest. They get great strength from meeting each other before too."

One of the most poignant prizes of last year was the first posthumous award in honour of Stephen Sutton, the blogger and activist who spent his final days raising money for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

"I remember we pushed his fundraising over the £5million mark on the night," recalls Carol. "But it's not just about people who have been ill. The lifetime achievement awards are for ordinary people that we wouldn't read about in normal Press, but they have done these remarkable things; they aren't celebrity driven or media driven or anything, and the person who has won that this year is astonishing."

Carol admits plenty of winners made her cry this year.

"One in particular, it was one of the Children of Courage winners. We saw some film at the judging panel. When you read a story it's not the same as seeing it and what this little boy did was extraordinary – I blubbed."

Carol Vorderman, The Pride of Britain Awards 2015, Thursday, ITV, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Doc Martin
ITV, 9pm
Louisa and Martin have their first therapy session together – though neither of them was expecting they would be given homework – while Morwenna is not happy about it when a teenager on work experience starts trying to boss her around in the surgery. Mrs Tishell is surprised when her husband Clive returns and tells her he wants to give things another go, and Louisa has to call Martin when one of her pupils collapses during a school excursion.

Coldplay, Ed Sheeran, Beyonce and Pearl Jam at the Global Citizen Festival
BBC1, 10.35pm
The Global Citizen Festival has been running since 2011 and last year secured financial commitments for tackling extreme poverty and disease, totalling $1.3billion – but clearly the work is ongoing, because its aim once again was to raise money and awareness in a bid to end poverty. The 2015 bash took place at New York's Central Park last weekend and was hosted by such luminaries as Hugh Jackman and Salma Hayek. Sadly, the BBC's highlights package is woefully short, but it promises to have all the best bits from the event's headliners, including Beyonce.

TUESDAY
Britain's Biggest Adventures with Bear Grylls
ITV, 9pm
He's trekked around Snowdonia in North Wales and explored the Yorkshire Dales – now Bear Grylls goes north of the border to the Scottish Highlands on an adventure that takes him from the deepest point in Britain to its highest mountain, Ben Nevis. Along the way he goes in search of freshwater pearl mussels, one of the most endangered species in the world, heads for the hills to discover how the country's magnificent highlands were formed and hears about a plan to save an ancient forest under threat because the native Scots pine has been over-run by a non-native species.

WEDNESDAY
All Star Mr & Mrs
ITV, 8pm
The honeymoon period might be over for another three couples as Phillip Schofield returns to test their knowledge of each other's likes, dislikes and habits. First up are former Corrie actor Jimi Mistry and his wife, one-time Strictly Come Dancing dancer Flavia Cacace-Mistry, tennis legend Martina Navratilova and her wife Julia Lemigova, and Good Morning Britain presenter Sean Fletcher and his wife Luned. The three couples reveal how much they know about each other over two rounds, before the winners play for £30,000 for their chosen charity. However, no one walks away empty-handed, as the losers each receive £5,000 for a good cause – not to mention the much-coveted Mr & Mrs carriage clock.

Coldplay, Ed Sheeran, Beyoncé and Pearl Jam at the Global Citizen Festival, Monday, BBC1, 10.35pm

Doctor Foster
BBC1, 9pm
After the revelation that those around her are also holding onto secrets, Gemma throws herself into a new start with her husband. However, when the respected senior GP discovers that someone is out to get her on a professional level, she must steel herself as the pressure begins to mount. Simon appears to be supportive of her, but she needs to make a decision as to whether or not the man she married is to be trusted. Starring Suranne Jones.

THURSDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 9pm
Anita Rani makes her second BBC One appearance of the week, although unlike her Strictly Come Dancing performance, this delve into her family's past proves to be a much more sobering affair. Anita never met her maternal grandfather Sant Singh, but she knows he had another wife and family before meeting her grandmother – and that he suffered terrible tragedy at the time of India's Partition. Here the broadcaster travels to India to see if she can find out more about his first family and what happened to them.

FRIDAY
Have I Got News for You
BBC1, 9pm
New series. Team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton bound back for the 50th run of the series, which has been appearing regularly on BBC screens now since 1990. They will find a domestic political climate much changed since the spring, now that the Conservatives have settled into majority government and the Labour opposition has undergone a transformation. But it may prove quite a feat for them and their guest participants to find a humorous edge to many of the current world affairs stories.

BBC
flog it!
Is coming your way
WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY
Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton,
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Wednesday 14th October 2015
09.30 am – 4.00 pm
Paul Martin and our experts James Lewis,
Caroline Hawley and David Harper
look forward to seeing you there
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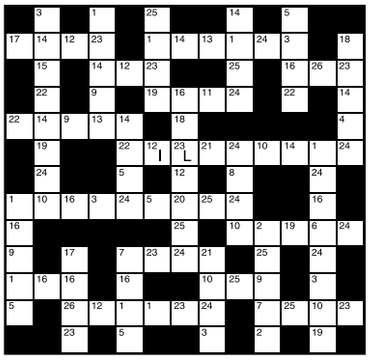
Dudley Chronicle Thursday, September 24, 2015

BRAIN GYM No.344

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



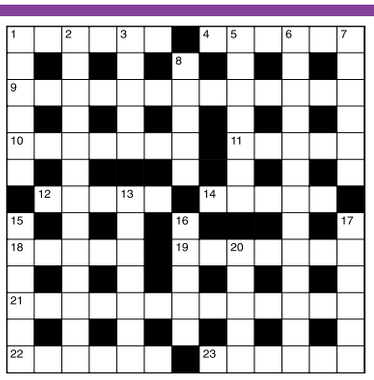
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23 L
11	24
12 I	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	R	I	C	L	M	Z	Q	X	D	E	T	U
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
W	Y	A	P	F	O	J	G	K	V	S	H	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Begin with a counter-claim? (3-3)
4. Attack makes idiot be ill (6)
9. Everything free in vain (3,3,7)
10. Gives out that I am to get thong back (7)
11. The smallest tales (5)
12. Pick-me-up in cot (5)
14. Get over being annoyed? (5)
18. Staggers on film? (5)
19. Red racer at pit (7)
21. Reasonable stipulation as to not bad state (4,9)
22. Sign up (6)
23. See art as a difficult puzzle (6)

Down

1. Not moving from the attics (6)
2. It shows the cost of rings (9,4)
3. Speaker, not the chairman, holds it (5)
5. Colonist who pays up? (7)
6. Natural exuberance shown by beastly ghosts? (6,7)
7. Mental powers that dispel the gloom? (6)
8. Employed partly to train us each week (2,3)
13. Creatures belong to religious bodies (7)
15. Toy with the sweet, perhaps (6)
16. As created by quarrelsome actors? (5)
17. Thinner person resting? (6)
20. Breed to a higher standard, perhaps (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Seem (6)
4. Suitable (6)
9. Reporter (13)
10. Harbour (7)
11. Happen (5)
12. Decree (5)
14. Collection (5)
18. Contract (5)
19. Blow up (7)
21. Working together (13)
22. Audacious (6)
23. Opportunity (6)

Down

1. Admission (6)
2. Vertical (13)
3. Representative (5)
5. Spitefulness (7)
6. Absorption (13)
7. Withdraw (6)
8. Extra (5)
13. Sure (7)
15. Flinched (6)
16. Less (5)
17. Alliance (6)
20. Gleam (5)

Sudoku

9			1	2				8
					6	9	1	
6		4			5	7		
3				8				7
	2	9	5		7	1		
				6				5
1		3	4			6		9
		8	3				5	
				1	8			2

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	1	9	5	8	6	7	2	4
6	4	8	9	2	7	1	3	5
2	5	7	1	3	4	6	9	8
5	7	2	3	6	8	9	4	1
8	6	1	4	5	9	2	7	3
4	9	3	7	1	2	8	5	6
1	8	5	2	9	3	4	6	7
7	2	6	8	4	5	3	1	9
9	3	4	6	7	1	5	8	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Pair of braces; 7 Final; 8 Rider; 9 Won; 10 Closeness; 11 Torero; 12 Estate; 15 Forestall 17 Now; 18 River; 19 Medal; 21 Growing pains. Down: 1 Play with fire; 2 Own; 3 Bellow; 4 Air-vessel; 5 Endue; 6 Crossed wires; 7 Finer; 10 Corkscrew; 13 Annul; 14 Gammon; 16 Rover; 20 Dip. QUICK - Across: 1 Gross neglect; 7 Cleft; 8 Theme; 9 Eye; 10 Generator; 11 Impale; 12 Albion; 15 Eruditely; 17 Tor; 18 China; 19 Baker; 21 In attendance. Down: 1 Give evidence; 2 See; 3 Extend; 4 Laterally; 5 Cheat; 6 Rear entrance; 7 Cheap; 10 Gallivant; 13 Inter; 14 Feeble; 16 Union; 20 Kid.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. When was Count von Zeppelin's first airship built?
2. Which famous king was son of Findlaech?
3. What sort of fruit is a morello?
4. In which year did Sitting Bull die?
5. What is a pixel?
6. What is the capital of Corsica?
7. What is the SI unit of electrical charge?
8. Which artist painted Nude Descending a Staircase?
9. In which country is Casablanca?
10. What are the international vehicle registration letters for Bahrain?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Allan Pinkerton; 2 Scarlet pimpernel; 3 Lady Jane Grey; 4 Elizabeth Barrett Browning; 5 Cobalt; 6 Goldfish; 7 Tonto; 8 Duke Ellington; 9 Professor Plum; 10 Cherry.

Niner: INSULATED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

564 gives something to wear,
3725 gives something else to wear,
38119 gives something else to wear.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Detached bungalow with garage has been improved

THIS well-presented and improved modern detached bungalow in Chevening Close, Sedgley, occupies a wider than normal plot.

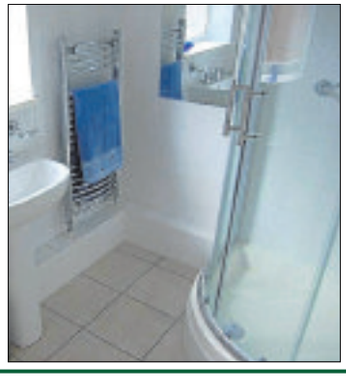
It is for sale through Wakeman at £189,950 with no chain.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a side entrance hall, living room with a marble fireplace and hearth, kitchen with white gloss fronted units, a built-in double oven with electric hob and cooker hood, integrated fridge and freezer.

There are two bedrooms with built-in wardrobes and mirror sliding doors, and a shower room.

Outside, the property has a driveway, gardens and a detached garage.

For further information contact Wakeman on 01902 885894 or visit www.wakeman-online.com



Dormer property has the 'wow factor'

A PROPERTY with 'wow factor' in Siddons Road, Coseley, is a dormer style detached bungalow that has been completely re-configured and refurbished to a high specification. It is for sale through Swinscoes at £204,950

Ideal for a growing family it has an entrance hallway, downstairs WC, open plan contemporary kitchen and dining room, utility room, living room, conservatory, three bedrooms and house bathroom.

The property also benefits from double-glazed windows, gas central heating, double garage, driveway providing off-road parking and a rear garden.

For further information call 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk

K. Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION - 20th OCTOBER 2015

Ground Rents	Birmingham, Dudley, Wolverhampton
Lock-Up Garages	Wolverhampton
Whitmore Reans	2 bed Mid Terraced for modernisation
Goldthorn Park	4 bed Detached in prime location
Parkfields	Large 2 bed Mid Terraced
Bilston	Attractive 3 bed Mid Terraced
Wednesfield	3 bed Semi-Detached for modernisation
Bilston	2 bed Semi-Detached
Penn	Substantial residential investment current gross income £30,500 pax (potential gross income £34,300 pax)
Willenhall	2 bed Detached on large plot with outbuildings
Finchfield	Attractive bungalow with long delightful rear garden

'GARDEN COTTAGE' FARMCOTE, BRIDGNORTH, WV15 5PT

Situated in the delightful Shropshire hamlet of Farmcote this character property offers deceptively spacious accommodation of great charm, exposed beams blending with modern appointments and fittings including central heating Fully enclosed Porch, Hallway, fitted Cloakroom, Fine 20ft Lounge with fire recess having historic old beam, Superb 27ft Conservatory, Dining Room with wood burning stove, large Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, wide staircase, Three Bedrooms (one en suite), Bathroom. Truly delightful Gardens with Summer House, additional Grounds and Double Garage. Opposite the Cottage is a further area of land leading to tree lined meadow walk. EPC: G18

OFFERS AROUND £585,000

53 CRANMERE AVENUE, THE WERGS, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV6 8TR

Standing in a much favoured and long established residential neighbourhood this appealing Detached Dormer Bungalow is now in need of some modernisation but, with the additional benefit of excellent Loft space, offers much scope to provide an attractive and comfortable home. Wide Entrance Hall, Lounge with decorative stone fireplace, Dining Room, Kitchen, Superb Conservatory, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom. Spacious Loft area ideal for conversion to additional Accommodation (STPP), large Garden Store/Workshop with WC off, attached double Garage and large Carport, attractive enclosed Rear Garden. EPC: F.36

OFFERS AROUND £285,000

2 WATERLOO ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON TEL: 01902 710626 OR 424044
email: swashauctions@btconnect.com www.kstuartswash.co.uk

The Property Ombudsman

NAEA

SWINSCOES

Sedgley
01902 672274
sales@swinscoes.co.uk

LOWER GORNAL

Cedarwood Road,

- A beautiful SPLIT-LEVEL BUNGALOW
- Private spot in quiet cul-de-sac
- Extensive gardens leading o The Dingle
- Flexible and spacious accommodation
- Lounge-diner and sitting room
- Kitchen with breakfast bar
- Three DOUBLE bedrooms
- Shower room and bathroom
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED
- EPC - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £279,950

DUDLEY

Attingham Drive,

- A beautifully presented DETACHED
- 9 years old & 1 yr NHBC remaining
- Convenient for amenities of Dudley
- Close by to Dudley College
- Accommodation over three storeys
- FIVE bedrooms and THREE bathrooms
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £279,950

DUDLEY

Yarner Close, Milking Bank

- A DETACHED property
- Milking Bank address
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen and utility room
- FOUR bedrooms
- En-suite & house bathroom
- Garage and driveway
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £259,950

SEDGLEY

Viewfield Crescent,

- A Beautifully presented Bungalow
- OPEN ASPECT VIEWS
- Large lounge with dining area
- Two DOUBLE bedrooms
- Bathroom with 'white' suite
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Block paved drive
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EPC Rating - C
- Offers Invited

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £219,950

COSELEY

Siddons Road,

- A OUTSTANDING dormer bungalow
- Close by to train station
- A luxury dining kitchen
- Conservatory and large lounge
- THREE bedrooms
- Modern bathroom
- DOUBLE GARAGE
- Rear garden
- EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £204,950

SEDGLEY

Edgehill Drive, Northway

- A beautifully presented semi-detached
- Lovely quiet location on Northway
- THREE bedrooms
- Open plan dining kitchen
- Refurbished to a high standard
- Garage and driveway
- An IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £184,950

DUDLEY

Badminton Close, Milking Bank

- A DETACHED property in cul-de-sac
- Popular Milking Bank Estate
- Modern dining kitchen
- THREE bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Corner plot with extra land to the front
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Garage and driveway
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £184,950

COSELEY

Upper Ettingshall Road,

- A DETACHED dormer bungalow
- Popular residential area
- In need of some modernisation
- THREE BEDROOMS
- Ensuite and house bathroom
- Fully Upvc double glazed,
- A garage and driveway
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £185,500

DUDLEY

Somery Road,

- * A traditional style semi-detached
- * Popular residential area in Dudley
- * UNIQUE OPEN PLAN LAYOUT
- * Lounge, dining room and kitchen
- * Three bedrooms
- * Traditional features
- * Garage and driveway
- * An ideal family home
- * EPC Rating- TBC

£195,950

LOWER GORNAL

Harcourt Drive,

- A semi detached family home
- Cul-de-sac central for Gornal and Dudley
- THREE bedrooms
- Extended kitchen to the rear
- Lounge and dining room
- Garage and driveway
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- Requires some updating
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £164,950

COSELEY

Phillip Street, COSELEY

- REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE
- A modern style semi-detached
- Open plan Lounge & Diner
- Contemporary kitchen
- Downstairs WC and house bathroom
- THREE BEDROOMS
- Off road parking and garage
- Private Rear Garden
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £138,000

LOWER GORNAL

Roberts Green Road,

- * A well presented semi-detached
- * prominent location for amenities of Dudley
- * THREE good size bedrooms
- * Lounge and dining room
- * Contemporary kitchen and utility
- * Pleasant rear garden
- * Driveway parking
- * Ideal family home
- * EPC Rating- TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £127,500

UPPER GORNAL

Eve Lane,

- A well presented semi-detached property
- AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- THREE bedrooms
- Centrally located for Dudley and Sedgley
- Integral garage
- Lounge and modern kitchen
- Upvc double glazing
- Driveway providing off road parking
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £127,500

DUDLEY

Marlborough Road, Woodsetton

- A modern terrace/townhouse property
- Open plan dining kitchen
- THREE bedrooms
- Rear garden with GARAGE
- Conservatory and downstairs wc
- Rear garden with GARAGE
- uPVC double glazed
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £116,950

SEDGLEY

Cross Lane,

- A SPACIOUS semi-detached
- Convenient for Sedgley Centre
- AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- Open plan dining kitchen
- THREE good size bedrooms
- uPVC double glazing
- Off road parking
- A pleasant rear Garden
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,950

COSELEY

Ivyhouse Lane,

- Traditional Style semi-detached
- Deceptively spacious & contemporary
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen * Conservatory
- Modern Bathroom
- TWO good size bedrooms
- Garden, garage & utility
- An ideal first time buy
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £111,950

BILSTON, BILSTON

Harlyn Close,

- A beautifully presented semi-detached
- TWO bedrooms
- Contemporary lounge and kitchen
- Conservatory
- Modern bathroom
- TWO Parking spaces
- Well maintained rear garden
- And ideal first time buy
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £110,000

COSELEY

Rowan Crescent,

- A well presented semi-detached property
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- THREE bedrooms
- Lounge and conservatory
- Open plan dining kitchen
- Garage and driveway parking
- Front and rear gardens
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £109,950

WOODSETTON

Hilary Crescent, Brierford Estate

- A traditional THREE bedrooms semi
- Modernised throughout & extended
- Open plan style kitchen & utility
- Lounge and dining room
- Pleasant rear garden
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- An Ideal INVESTMENT
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £109,950

COSELEY

Vicarage Road, Roseville Village

- A well presented semi-detached
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- Prominent location in Roseville Village
- Open plan kitchen/diner
- TWO good size bedrooms
- Pleasant rear garden
- Driveway parking
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £104,950

DUDLEY

Elwell Crescent, Woodsetton

- A well presented mid-terrace
- Close by to local amenities
- Modern internal accommodation
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility and downstairs WC
- THREE bedrooms
- Well maintained rear garden
- Upvc double glazed
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £94,950

RIPLEY GROVE, UPPER GORNAL

St. James Court,

- A ground floor APARTMENT
- Centrally located for Sedgley and Gornal
- Only 5 years old (NHBC Guarantee)
- Open plan modern lounge/kitchen
- TWO bedrooms
- One car parking space
- Communal gardens
- Secure entry system
- Ideal first time buy
- EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £94,000

COSELEY

Ettingshall Road,

- A beautifully presented apartment
- First floor accommodation
- TWO bedrooms
- lounge opening to kitchen
- approx 10 years old
- EPC Rating - c

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £80,000

COSELEY

Bourne Street,

- A first floor flat OFFERED FOR SALE
- Refurbished throughout
- ONE bedroom
- Lounge and separate kitchen
- Contemporary bathroom
- Secure gated entry
- Communal parking area
- Ideal investment opportunity
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £70,950

LOWER GORNAL

Longfellow Road, The Straits

- A beautifully presented semi detached
- EXTENDED accommodation
- Open plan dining room and kitchen
- Lounge and office/study
- FOUR bedrooms and en-suite
- Landscaped rear garden
- A DETACHED garage
- Favoured address on The Straits Estate
- Ideal family home
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £214,950

COSELEY

Flamborough Way,

- BEAUTIFULLY presented detached
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Exceptional open plan design
- Large Kitchen/breakfast/diner
- Large 'L' shaped lounge
- FIVE Bedrooms
- En-suite and bathroom
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £235,950

WOLVERHAMPTON

Wendover Road, Ettingshall Park

- An immaculate semi detached
- Favoured street on Ettingshall Park
- RENOVATED to a high spec
- Extended luxury dining
- THREE BEDROOMS
- New bathroom
- Pleasant rear garden
- Off road parking and garage
- THREE bedrooms
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £169,950

LOWER GORNAL

Kipling Road, The Straits

- A BEAUTIFUL semi-detached
- Favoured address on The Straits
- THREE BEDROOMS
- A fabulous view to the rear
- Through lounge dining room
- Contemporary kitchen
- Tandem garage
- Driveway parking
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £174,950

DUDLEY

Bradfield Way,

- A MODERN semi-detached property
- Approximately 3½ years old
- Under NHBC guarantee
- TWO bedrooms
- Contemporary breakfast kitchen
- Block paved driveway
- Well maintained rear garden IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,950

ROSE STREET, COSELEY

Maple Court,

- A first floor flat
- Beautifully presented
- ONE bedroom
- Open plan lounge/kitchen
- Contemporary bathroom
- Communal Parking
- Ideal investment
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £99,950

Large detached and improved family home

THIS large detached and improved family home in Market Street, Kingswinford, is for sale through Taylors at £379,950.

Spacious throughout with a reception hall, a ground floor guest WC, lounge with feature fireplace, luxury re-fitted family dining/living kitchen with appliances, a feature fireplace and French doors opening to a large conservatory, utility. There are four large bedrooms, house bathroom. Ouside is a driveway, carport, garage and a large rear garden. Call (01384) 401777 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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NEW
BROCKMOOR
CRESSETT AVENUE
An attractively presented 3 Bed Semi-Detached providing deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED family accomodation available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Pleasantly situated in this ever popular address and includes: Porch, Hall, Downs W.C., spacious Lounge, superb refitted Dining Kitchen with built-in oven and hob and fridge/freezer, 3 excellent Bedrooms, stylish refitted Bathroom with shower, Side Garage, pleasant lawned rear Garden and driveway for 2 cars. EPC=TBC
Purchase Price £139,950

NEW
NETHERTON
COPSE ROAD
Pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address, this 3 Bed Semi provides spacious UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom which although requires upgrading and improvement provides tremendous further potential for the First Time Buyer or young family. NO UPWARD CHAIN Hall, spacious Lounge, Kitchen, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, Bathroom, separate W/C and pleasant good sized level rear gardens with Southerly facing aspect. EPC=G
Offers around £104,950

NEW
BRIERLEY HILL
MOOR STREET
This attractively presented 2 Bed Intermediate Townhouse is pleasantly and conveniently positioned at the front of this popular development and provides deceptively spacious UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer or young family. Briefly comprises:- Attractive Lounge, REFITTED DINING KITCHEN with built in oven and hob, 2 Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with shower, pleasant enclosed Rear Gardens with open outlook and CAR PARKING space to the rear.EPC=D
Offers around £94,950

NEW
BROCKMOOR
STATION ROAD
This attractively presented 3 Bed Intermediate Terrace provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or INVESTOR and is pleasantly situated in this popular and very convenient address. NO UPWARD CHAIN., Spacious Lounge, attractive Dining Kitchen, Sun Room/Veranda, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, stylish Bathroom with shower and is complimented by good sized rear Garden (offset to the rear) and car parking space/driveway to the front. EPC=TBC
Offers around £89,950

REDUCED
KINGSWINFORD
ANDOVER CRESCENT
Superbly presented, improved and EXTENDED Modern 3 Bed Semi providing spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family and enjoys a very neat and roomy attached TEENAGER / GRANNY ANNEXE. With NO UPWARD CHAIN, briefly comprises :- Hall, spacious Lounge, superb large extended Breakfast Kitchen, sep Dining Room, 3 Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom with shower, pleasant lawned rear Gardens, larger than average side Garage and Driveway for 4 cars. EPC=D
Offers over £205,000

REDUCED
PENSNETT
CORBYNS CLOSE
This delightfully presented, and extended 3 Bed Detached provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC Double glazed family accom pleasantly situated with distant views to the rear in this popular and very convenient cul-de-sac. Briefly comprises :- Hall, Spacious Lounge with Dining Area, Superb Refitted and extended Breakfast Kitchen, Downs W.C, 3 Good Bedrooms, Attractively Fitted Bathroom, Side Garage, Pleasant Lawned Rear Gardens with south westerly aspect and driveway to Front. EPC=E
Purchase Price £159,995

REDUCED
BRIERLEY HILL
MILL STREET
This attractively presented 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young Family and is very conveniently located for the Merry Hill Centre and good local schools. Hall, Downs W.C., attractive Lounge, stylishly fitted Kitchen, Elegant Conservatory, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, attractively fitted Bathroom with Shower, Integral Garage, pleasant lawned Rear Gardens with westerly aspect and Driveway to front. EPC=D
Offers around £139,995

NOW AVAILABLE
HOLLY HALL
NEWLAND GROVE
A neatly presented Traditional 3 Bed End Townhouse providing spacious well presented GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family in this established address. Briefly comprises: Hall, Attractive Lounge, Re-Fitted Dining Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 3 Bedrooms, attractively fitted Bathroom with shower, Pleasant Good Sized Lawned and Landscaped Rear Gardens with private outlook and Driveway for 2 cars to the front. EPC=D
Offers around £114,950

NETHERTON
CINDERBANK
This attractively presented Modern 2 Bed Semi-Detached provides well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning First Time Buyer or young family and is pleasantly situated in this popular and very convenient address. Hall, Spacious Lounge, Attractively Refitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 2 Good Bedrooms (with fitted wardrobes), stylishly Fitted Bathroom with Shower, Pleasant Lawned Rear Gardens and Driveway Parking to the Front. EPC=D
Purchase Price £109,950

REDUCED
QUARRY BANK
WINDING MILL SOUTH
An attractively presented 3 Bed Intermediate Townhouse pleasantly situated on popular development providing refreshingly spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE glazed accom ideally suited to the First Time Buyer or young family. Porch/Hall, spacious Lounge, attractively fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob and adjoining Dining Area, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom with shower, pleasant lawned enclosed rear Gardens and car parking available for residents close by. EPC=G
Offers around £107,950

TO LET
BRIERLEY HILL
SOUTH PARK MEWS
Attractively Presented 2 Bed Semi-Detached with GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING in Convenient Cul-De-Sac close to local amenities. Hall, Spacious Lounge, Attractive Kitchen with electric Cooker, 2 Well Proportioned Bedrooms, Stylish Bathroom with Separate Shower, Lawned Rear Gardens with pleasant outlook and block paved Driveway to Front. No Pets/DSS/Smokers. Deposit £750. Available Immediately. FEES APPLY EPC=C
£525 PCM EX

TO LET
NETHERTON
PURLIN WHARF
An Attractively Presented Modern 2 Bedroomed Second Floor Apartment with UPVC Double Glazing and electric heating on popular development. Spacious Lounge, Kitchen with oven and hob and Bathroom, 2 good Bedrooms (En-Suite to Master), Allocated Car Parking space. Available Immediately. No Pets/Smokers/DSS. Deposit £600 FEES APPLY EPC=D
£495 PCM EX

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RUSSELLS HALL, Abbotsford Drive

Well proportioned DETACHED HOME with gas heating/double glazing. Including: large porch, spacious hall, dining room, through lounge, attractive fitted kitchen, utility, cloaks/WC, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC E

£225,000

BRIERLEY HILL, Elgar Crescent

This DETACHED FOUR BEDROOM HOUSE designed by 'David Payne' in this noted address, EXTENDED AND PLANNED, offers: HUGE ENTRANCE, Hall, Cloaks/toilet, 18' Lounge, 18' Conservatory, Dining Room, fitted Kitchen, Utility/Playroom, Bedroom/Dressing room (reverts to Beds 1&4), Two further Bedrooms and Bathroom. Forecourt Parking and Garden with 'GARDEN ROOM'. EPC C

£216,450

WALL HEATH, Brook Street

●●OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 11 - 1pm●●JUST RE DECORATED and RE CARPETED - A DECEPTIVELY LARGE, DETACHED HOUSE upon the fringes of countryside offering a generous layout including Hall, WC, huge lounge, dining room, kitchen, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS and luxury shower room. DRIVEWAY, CARPORT, GARAGE and SUNNY GARDEN. EPC D

Open day

£189,950

SEDGLEY, Longmeadow Drive, Northway

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! Gas centrally heated,mostly double glazed detached with lengthy garden.20ft L shape lounge/dining room, third bedroom, kitchen (no units), two bedrooms, bathroom, garage & driveway. Offers based on £180,000 to be submitted for the Executors consideration by midday 28th September 2015. OPEN DAY by appointment on 26.9.15, other appointments by arrangement with Sedgley Offfice. EPC TBC

Offers based on £180,000

LOWER GORNAL, Mount Lane

A SPACOUS, stylish, and significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached accommodation: hall, walk-in cloaks/store, through living room (with clearly defined lounge & dining room sections), brick/uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, upgraded kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Wide garage with further store/work room beyond. Block paved driveway, neat rear garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £160,000

PENSNETT, The Plantation

Located within this delightful cul de sac, this EXTENDED MUCKLOW SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE requires updating, yet offers FANTASTIC POTENTIAL to enhance the already spacious, versatile layout. With driveway, GARAGE and a large pleasantly laid out garden. EPC E

No upward chain

£159,950

LOWER GORNAL, Grosvenor Road

This surprisingly large and extremely well presented UPVC double glazed gas centrally heated detached dormer style BUNGALOW situated in the popular Lower Gornal area and benefits from entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS (en suite to master), two large garages, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £154,950

WOODSETTON, Brook Street

SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached. Enviably situated with lengthy front garden in a popular district the accommodation provides; porch, hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. Lawned driveway to brick garage, good sized garden beyond. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £157,000...NOW £152,000

LOWER GORNAL, Summer Lane

This Victorian style, double glazed (vast majority of majority of units), gas centrally heated end terrace with LARGE ATTACHED WORKSHOPS. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, the property briefly comprises lounge, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, two first floor double bedrooms. Outside: two large workshops (one with inspection pit), attached office, lengthy driveway, garden area. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £159,950...NOW £149,950

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Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen

SEDGLEY, Wolverhampton Road

Fantastically presented detached property set in desirable area of Sedgley. EXTENDED family home benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, FOUR BEDROOMS, two reception rooms, beautifully presented breakfast-kitchen, utility, guest W/C, conservatory, stunning family bathroom, en suite shower room to bedroom three. Garage, garden, driveway. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £284,950

GORNAL WOOD, Himley Road

Highly individual, REMARKABLY SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM (two en-suite) detached imaginatively planned to an exciting contemporary design comprising; reception hall, cloakroom, dining room, magnificent 17'8" lounge, well equipped kitchen. Second bedroom with shower room en suite, Two further double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, and to the Second floor a magnificent principal bedroom suite with a range of fitted units & shower room en suite. Garage. Neat garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £260,000

DUDLEY, Wistmans Close, Milking Bank

Situated at head of cul-de-sac; a gas centrally heated UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED detached family home comprising; reception hall, lounge, dining room with patio doors, good sized kitchen, pantry, utility room, fitted cloaks. FOUR bedrooms (principle bedroom with shower room en suite), bathroom, garage, block paved fore garden, secluded rear garden. EPC D.SEDGLEY.

Offers in the Region of £234,950

LOWER GORNAL, Grafton Gardens, Straits

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Enviably situated in cul-de-sac just off The Straits within walking distance of the village & backing on to country park at rear; a significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed intermediate "family home". briefly comprising: hallway, spacious living/dining room, rear hallway with store, kitchen. Three generous bedrooms, refitted bathroom with white suite. Garage, sheltered garden abutting on to woodland. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

New price — Fixed Price of £140,000

COSELEY, Dalwood Close, Bramford

Attractive, ENLARGED, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached situated in short favoured cul-de-sac with LENGTHY REAR GARDEN. Accommodation briefly comprises; entrance porch, hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room with patio doors, enlarged mostly refitted kitchen with 'Ikea' units. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Lengthy garden. Garage, and off road parking,EPC: C. SEDGLEY

New price — WAS £150,000...£140,000

QUARRY BANK, Malpass Road

This THOUGHTFULLY EXTENDED & WELL PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Conservatory, Guests Cloakroom, THREE LARGE BEDROOMS, Family Bathroom, Driveway & Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC F

New price — £134,950

DUDLEY , Vanborough Walk

This family home is excellently presented and is situated in the popular London Heights, Dudley area. It benefits from upvc double glazing, gas central heating, THREE BEDROOMS, living room, kitchen-diner, conservatory, family bathroom, integral garage, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. Viewing is highly recommended. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £132,950

LOWER GORNAL , Cypress Avenue, Thornleigh

A significantly EXTENDED gas centrally heated and either aluminium or UPVC double glazed semi detached on corner plot offering potential in popular district. Accommodation includes reception hall, L shape lounge (with patio doors), EXTENDED 25'0" BREAKFAST KITCHEN. Three bedrooms, LARGE 21'4" X 10'8" GARAGE, gardens and parking. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

New price — Fixed Price of £130,000

BROCKMOOR, Fox Foot Drive

This LOVELY & EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED HOME would ideally suit FIRST TIME BUYERS has a FABULOUS GARDEN & GARAGE. Also comprising: Stylish Lounge. Contemporary Kitchen, TWO GENEROUS BEDROOMS, Modern Bathroom. VIEW EARLY! NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D

£129,950

SEDGLEY, North Springfield

This extended intermediate property is situated in the popular area of Sedgley and benefits from gas central heating, FOUR BEDROOMS, porch, living room, kitchen-diner, dining room, ground-floor wet room, garden room, family bathroom, off road parking, enclosed rear garden, NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers around £124,950

NETHERTON, Clarence Road

This SPACIOUS, STYLISHLY DECORATED, THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY would make a FANTASTIC FAMILY HOME. Comprising: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Attractive Sitting Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, Modern Bathroom, HUGE REAR GARDEN. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC: F

£114,950

DUDLEY, Occupation Street

Well maintained end of terraced property which offers potential and is an ideal starter home. It is situated in the sought after area of Dudley and benefits from upvc double glazing, gas central heating, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, through-lounge, kitchen, fitted shower room, enclosed rear garden, driveway to front and detached garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £107,950

DUDLEY, Bramble Green, Old Park Farm

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Freehold, uPVC double glazed, part centrally heated SEMI DETACHED offering significant potential set upon established development and briefly including; reception hall. living room, kitchen-diner, pantry, lengthy utility area, store and downstairs wet room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE. EPC: D.

New price — WAS £104,950...NOW £100,000

PENSNETT, Colliers Fold

VERY WELL PRESENTED & MOST APPEALING BUNGALOW with a LOW MAINTENACNE REAR GARDEN and for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Also comprising: Porch, Sitting Room, Well Fitted Kitchen, GENEROUS BEDROOM, White Suite Bathroom, Off Road Parking. EPC D

£85,000

Brierley Hill, Cooper Avenue

Within the close end of the Avenue, this MUCH IMPROVED SEMI DETACHED HOME has GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING to comprise: Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and White Bathroom. Drive (no dropped kerb) and Rear Garden. EPC: D.

£82,995

COSELEY, Andersleigh Drive

Conscientiously maintained GROUND FLOOR double glazed flat with allocated & secluded rear garden set at head of cul de sac in a convenient district briefly comprising: entrance hallway, kitchen with cream finish units, lounge, lobby, double bedroom, bathroom. Allocated parking, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price — WAS £79,950...NOW £74,950

DUDLEY, Land adj to 78 Old Park Road

Planning consent secured to construct a three storey three bedroom detached dwelling of approximately 144 square metres (excluding garage) in well established residential neighbourhood. Planning application T12/1063 Offers around £60,000 viewing arrangements and further details with agents Sedgley Office.

Offers in the Region of 60,000

Brierley Hill, Dadford View

Enjoying an enviable position within this popular development, this WELL PRESENTED, FIRST FLOOR FLAT represents an IDEAL FIRST BUY and comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Allocated & Visitors Parking and Communal Gardens. EPC D

New price — £52,000

Modern detached home in a secluded cul-de-sac

DOVE Cottage in Rectory Gardens, Hartlebury, is a modern detached home with spacious accommodation in a secluded private cul-de-sac close to the heart of the village. It is for sale through Halls at £450,000.

It has a reception hall, a sitting room with a coal-effect gas fire, a dining room, a study, a snug with a coal- effect gas fire, and double doors out to the rear garden/patio, a kitchen/breakfast room with a double oven, gas hob with hood over, part tiled walls, built in dishwasher, fridge and breakfast area with bench seating, utility room, ground floor bedroom

Upstairs are three bedrooms and a family bathroom. Outside are lawned gardens and a double garage.

For further details call the agent Halls on 01905 728444 or visit www.hallsgb.com

Extended period house is spacious

THIS extended and spacious detached period house in Franche Road, Kidderminster, is priced to sell at £240,000 with no chain through Phipps & Pritchard with McCartneys.

It has an entrance hall, dining room with feature archway, living room with ornate fire surround housing a flame-effect gas fire and rear area with a bar, kitchen with granite worktops, island, oven and grill and hob, garden room/day room, a rear hall, lobby, home office/bedroom four, a WC, three bedrooms and a bathroom, garage and gardens.

For details call 01562 822244 or visit www.phippsandpritchard.co.uk website.

Wakeman

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teamprop.co.uk

DOWNING HOUSE, CATHOLIC LANE £349,950
SEDGLEY
•Modern detached house
•Four bedrooms
•Large breakfast kitchen
•Utility room, ensuite shower room
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

1 SUNNINGDALE ROAD, SEDGLEY O/A £265,000
•Beautifully presented & improved link detached house
•Occupying a wide garden plot overlooking open greenbelt countryside
•Three bedrooms, two reception rooms, utility room & re-fitted kitchen
•Excellent opportunity for a purchaser to acquire a home of this caliber
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

7 CHARNWOOD AVENUE O/A £250,000
SEDGLEY
•Detached bungalow with three bedrooms
•Enjoying a wide plot at the head of a cul de sac
•L' shaped living room comprising living area & dining area
•Tandem garage with further garage, attractive gardens
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

4 ELMWOOD RISE £244,950
SEDGLEY
•Detached house with four bedrooms
•En suite shower room off bedroom one
•Extended breakfast kitchen, utility room
•Private rear garden with excellent views
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

NO UPWARD CHAIN

30 WREN STREET, WOODSETTON O/A £230,000
•Well maintained four bedroom detached house
•Attractively presented, spacious accommodation
•Through lounge & dining room, well fitted kitchen
•Ample off street parking, well maintained rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC

41 ROPER WAY O/A £199,950
WOODSETTON
•Detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Attractively presented
•Head of a cul de sac
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

12 CHEVENING CLOSE O/A £189,950
SEDGLEY
•Modern detached bungalow
•Two bedrooms, shower room
•Enviable position at head of cul de sac
•Pleasantly landscaped gardens
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

75 NORTHWAY £184,950
SEDGLEY
•Link detached house
•Well maintained & presented
•Three bedrooms
•Private rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

54 MOUNT ROAD £179,950
LANESFIELD
•Traditional detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Improved & extended
•Deceptive accommodation
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

601 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD O/A £175,000
COSELEY
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Extended & improved
•Attractively presented
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC C

27 VICTORIA ROAD O/A £169,950
TIPTON
•Spacious family home
•Lots of character
•Attached self contained annexe
•Good sized private rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

7 HOPYARD CLOSE £159,950
LOWER GORNAL
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Through lounge/dining room
•Cul de sac location
•SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING E

11 SUMMERHILL ROAD £155,000
COSELEY
•Detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Large bathroom
•Attractive rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

63 CINDER ROAD O/A £149,950
GORNAL
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•'L' shaped lounge/dining room
•Shower room
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

13 GORGE ROAD £124,995
SEDGLEY
•Terraced house
•Two bedrooms
•Two reception rooms
•Gas central heating
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

33 KINGS ROAD £118,950
SEDGLEY
•Improved mid terrace house
•Two bedrooms
•Bathroom off bedroom two
•Well presented accommodation
•SEDGLEY OFFCE-EPC RATING D

32 CROSS LANE £104,950
SEDGLEY
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Upvc double glazing
•In need of cosmetic updating
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING F

13 TURLS HILL ROAD O/A £99,950
SEDGLEY
•Edwardian semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•General updating & renovation works
•Two reception rooms, breakfast room
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING G

12 THISTLE CLOSE £79,950
SEDGLEY
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Well presented accommodation
•Quiet cul de sac location
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

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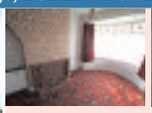
3 Bed — New Village, DUDLEY WOOD



A great opportunity for INVESTORS or anyone looking for a REFURBISHMENT PROJECT. Situated in an ever popular location with good links to local amenities. The property requires a thorough refurbishment but has spacious accommodation comprising of; entrance hall, lounge, second reception room, kitchen, lean to, WC, store room, first floor landing, bathroom and three bedrooms. An early viewing is recommended to avoid disappointment.

ATTENTION INVESTORS! EPC:TBC

Netherton Office — Offers Around £100,000

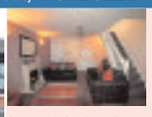
3 Bed — Hailstone Close, ROWLEY REGIS

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED EPC : D

IDEAL FAMILY HOME! A three bedroom semi-detached home in need of cosmetic modernisation situated in this popular cul-de-sac location backing onto the golf course. The property is well positioned for access to the West Midlands road network and local town centres and benefits from accommodation to comprise of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room and to the first floor is three bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property also benefits from gas central heating, secondary glazing, off road parking, landscaped front and rear gardens.

Netherton Office — Offers Invited £129,950

3 Bed — New Street, WORDSLEY



An opportunity to acquire a well maintained three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location close to local, schools, shops, parks and road links. The property benefits from being situated in a quiet and private courtyard set away from the road itself. The property also benefits from: Entrance Hall, fitted kitchen, lounge diner, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazed and gas centrally heated radiator and also benefits from having NO UPWARD CHAIN. A viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the accommodation.

EPC:TBC

Netherton Office — Offers Around £149,950

3 Bed — Heath Road, NETHERTON

This three bedroom semi detached family home offers a fantastic opportunity for first time buyers and buy to let investors alike. Realistically priced to sell and with spacious accommodation comprising of; entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, side store room/entry, three good sized bedrooms and first floor shower room. The property benefits from double glazing and gas central heating and has an attractive lawn garden to the front and a well maintained rear garden. The property is available with no upward chain.

EPC:TBC

Netherton Office — Offers Around £99,950

3 Bed — Sanders Close, DUDLEY

SIMIALR PROPERTIES REQUIRED EPC: D

PERFECT FAMILY HOME. This is a lovely and private semi detached home located in this pretty and quiet cul-de-sac. Being an already large property with potential for extension to the side with relevant permissions makes this ideal for young buyers with growing families. The ground floor accommodation comprises of spacious entrance hall, lounge, kitchen with dining area and original flooring, utility room housing a ground floor w.c. and on the first floor there are three good sized bedrooms and a shower room. There is gas central heating throughout the property and double glazing where specified. The front of the property has a pretty garden and plenty of driveway space and the rear garden has a patio and lawn area with shrubs and trees beyond. This is a convenient location on the Dudley/Rowley Regis border and is a short walk from Warrens Hill Nature Reserve.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £119,950

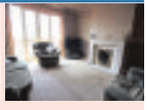
2 Bed — Purlin Wharf, NETHERTON

●●●REMAINDER OF NHBC WARRANTY AND INCENTIVES AVAILABLE●●● Great purchase for a multitude of buyers; not only would this lovely ground floor apartment suit a discerning first time buyer or an investor (potential rental income of ?525pcm), it would also be ideal for an elderly or disabled occupant due to being on the ground floor and having been built with extra wide doorways. Purlin Wharf is a modern and popular, canal-side development. This particular apartment actually benefits from having canal and communal green views. Externally there is allocated parking and the main entrance door has a secure intercom system and internally the well presented accommodation comprises of: entrance hallway, living room, kitchen, main bathroom, two bedrooms with en-suite to master. Being located near to shops, amenities and public transport links makes this a very convenient residence.

EPC: D

Netherton Office — Offers Invited £94,950

3 Bed — Regent Road, TIVIDALE



This spacious three bedroom semi detached home is situated in a popular and convenient location within the catchment area for Oakham Primary School (which gained an outstanding in its OFSTED report and with 100% of students achieving the expected levels at the end of KS2). The pleasantly arranged accommodation comprises of; porch, entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, rear hallway, ground floor WC, utility room, first floor landing, three well proportioned bedrooms and a generously sized bathroom. Externally there is off road parking to the front and to the rear is a garden with paved patio area, low maintenance gravel area, lawn garden all with fenced boundaries. Regent Road is positioned just a short drive away from Dudley Port Train Station (with routes in to Wolverhampton and Birmingham) and Junction 2 of the M5.

EPC: D

Netherton Office — Offers Around £119,950

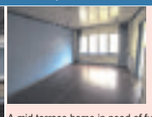
3 Bed — Kingsley Street, NETHERTON

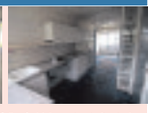
SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED EPC: D

AN IDEAL PURCHASE FOR A FIRST TIME BUYER OR INVESTOR. A traditional three storey, three bedroom home situated in this convenient yet quiet location, which has good access to the local amenities of Netherton Village, public transport links and Merry Hill Shopping Centre. There is accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and a family shower room to the first floor with stairs rising to the loft conversion providing a third bedroom. The property benefits from being gas centrally heated and double glazed and has a courtyard style rear garden.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £84,950

3 Bed — Cradley Park Road, NETHERTON



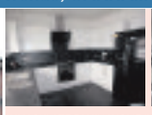


A mid terrace home in need of full refurbishment yet situated in this ever popular location within Netherton making this property a great opportunity for investors. Cradley Park Road is conveniently located for amenities, schools and public transport routes. The property benefits from a driveway to the front, spacious entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, potential habitable room or garage with w.c., three good sized bedrooms, bathroom and rear garden. There is double glazing throughout but gas would need to be installed. This property would suit cash buyers due to the lease term remaining. NO UPWARD CHAIN.

ATTENTION INVESTORS! EPC: F

Netherton Office — £95,000

3 Bed — Oakham Avenue, OAKHAM



IMMACULATE FAMILY HOME IN SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION. Seeing is believing! This recently refurbished property has literally had a make over everywhere! The three bedroom, semi detached property consists of: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen diner with utility, CONSERVATORY, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, master with EN-SUITE, double glazing and central heating throughout, driveway to the front and rear garden, offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN you really do not want to miss out on this opportunity to buy a house that has been truly transformed into a stylish and contemporary home.

EPC: D

Netherton Office — Offers Around £187,500

2 Bed — Sidaway Street, CRADLEY HEATH

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED EPC: G

This traditional, mid terrace property in Sidaway Street is situated near to local shops and public transport links. In need of some refurbishment works but, nevertheless, offering a good opportunity for a first time buyer or investor. The accommodation consists of: two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, two double bedrooms and refitted FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM. To the rear of the property is a courtyard style garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Book a viewing to fully appreciate opportunity on offer.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £74,950

2 Bed — Hingley Court, CRADLEY HEATH

SHARED OWNERSHIP EPC: B

A two bedroom first floor apartment in a very convenient location being within walking distance of schools, shops, Old Hill Train Station and Tesco Superstore. This is a perfect opportunity for a first time buyer looking for a way to get on the property ladder. Currently offered at 50% shared owner shop, there is the option to purchase further shares if required. Internally, the accommodation is modern and well presented with an Entrance hallway, two excellent sized DOUBLE BEDROOMS, refitted bathroom, L shaped lounge through to the fitted kitchen, and the property also benefits from being electrically heated and double glazed. There is secure allocated parking outside.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £49,950

3 Bed — Beech Avenue, HALESOWEN

EPC: E

An IMMACULATE three bedroom home located in this poular area being close to shops and amenities. There is the added benefit of being a short drive to Junction 3 of the M5 and within walking distance to Rowley Regis Train Station. The accommodation is more spacious than it appears from the outside so a viewing is recommended. There's an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, ground floor w.c., three good sized bedrooms, attic room, attractive fitted bathroom and outside the property there is off road parking to the front and a low maintenance garden to the rear.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £129,950

2 Bed — Mullett Street, PENSNETT

EPC: D

GREAT FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS! An opportunity to acquire a two bedroom EXTENDED semi detached property in need of some cosmetic improvement yet being situated in a popular residential location close to local schools, amenities, road links and Russells Hall Hospital. The property comprises of: Entrance hall, lounge, sitting room, inner hall, kitchen, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS and shower room. Having the added benefit of double glazing and gas central heating along with a drive way to the front and rear garden this property is being offered WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN. A viewing is highly recommended.

Netherton Office — Offers Around £106,950

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, September 24, 2015

Fuss-free Lexus NX300H

By Matt Joy

Even the thrills of more glamorous machinery can't dull the appeal of the hybrid Lexus.

I won't pretend for a second that motoring journalists aren't a spoilt lot. Even if cars don't do much for you, the idea of having a spanking-new motor on the driveway, paid for by someone else, has to be at least slightly appealing. But you may be surprised to learn that supercars aren't necessarily the last word in pleasure.

KFC (as the NX300h has come to be known) has delivered me safely and comfortably to various parts of the country, on several occasions in order to drive something considerably faster and more expensive; in one instance a car capable of over 200mph and costing more than £250,000.

You'd be forgiven for thinking then that climbing into the four-cylinder hybrid Lexus with its CVT gearbox and modest 112mph top speed would be a bigger comedown than January 1st 2000. But the reality is quite different.

It starts before you even climb aboard. With the small fob in your pocket, the keyless entry works seamlessly – a timesaver rather than pointless tech –and you just climb aboard and get comfortable without fuss.

Prod the starter button and the Lexus slips into electric mode straight away, which has proved a handy means of not waking up the neighbours when heading for the airport at 4am.

Starting at that time of day is never a pleasure, but the Lexus does a fine job of making life as easy as possible.

The essential large takeaway coffee sits happily in the cupholders, the low noise levels prevent issues with my sensitive early-morning brain and the radar cruise control is a motorway essential; it shares the workload of M-way drudgery with you and definitely leaves you feeling less tired than journeys without it.

It even manages to deal with the horrors of three moaning children in the back. Being able to recline the rear seat backs in a 60/40 split has come in handy on such occasions, namely to encourage the little darlings to go to sleep on long journeys rather than asking how long it is until we get there.

The leather seats have also done a fine job of repulsing whatever nightmarish combination of foodstuffs they see fit to redistribute, and a quick run over with the vacuum cleaner puts it right. I'd never have a car with cloth seats again, at least not until they've all turned 18.

I'm also convinced the NX300h has loosened up a little, as it seems to be ever more willing and able to deliver indicated fuel consumption well into the 40mpg region. I've yet to give it the full-on eco test run to the office and back, but as it's still two weeks until pay day, there's a good chance that will happen soon.

Sure, I'll never turn down a blat in a pricey supercar should the opportunity arise, but KFC's charms are increasingly welcome and prove the perfect antidote to the hustle and bustle of the real world. Unless you live on a desert island, that's a pretty useful thing to have.

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When it comes to finding value and high quality used vehicles The Oak Garage at Sterling Park, Merry Hill takes a lot of beating. What's more, the team can provide all this, plus a customer service experience that will entice you back again when it's time to replace your car.

The Oak Garage is a 40-year-old family business well know for its quality used ex-mobility cars. Since its move two years ago, the business has gone from strength to strength, most likely because of the personal service that the team provides to customers, and the quality of the vehicles on offer.

There is always 50 vehicles at Merry Hill for you to view, and consistently the company has access to 1,200 one owner cars with full service history, available to view online.

Many are still covered by the manufacturer's warranty and come with less than 10,000 miles.

Most of these ex-motability cars are available within 48 hours, and the supply of automatics is a speciality.

The Oak Garage has opened a new sales area, on the Pedmore Road, next to the traffic lights at Merry Hill, with plenty of parking on Sterling Park next to the office.

For this autumn, they are opening their new indoor showroom and office at Sterling Park, helping you to look around selected cars in comfort.

As the winter months approach many of the cars will be displayed indoors and you'll even get a welcome cup of tea or coffee.

In February this year, the business opened a promotional stand in the Cornbow Shopping Centre at Halesowen, where one of the very low mileage cars is always displayed for all to see. This always creates interest and the promotion has proved to be very successful. The stand is usually attended by one of the sales staff who will be more than happy to chat to you, and advise on all the options.

If you are looking for that special wheel chair access vehicle, pay The Oak Garage a visit.

Purpose-built vehicles complete with ramp and winch, are available within 48 hours. These can range from the simple wheel chair access car to a more complex people carrier.

Friendly staff at The Oak Garage are always on hand to help you choose the right car to match your lifestyle needs, whether its an automatic, diesel, an MPV or hatchback.

Friendly staff at The Oak Garage are always on hand to help you choose the right car to match your lifestyle needs

The Oak Garage will give you the best possible price for your part-exchange, and if you have two cars that you would like to exchange there's no problem.

Hire purchase facilities are available at preferential rates. Personal contract packages are also available that allow you the benefit of a nearly new car over a period of three years. At the end of the agreement you simply hand the car back and take a new car or pay the residual value. It's your choice and your finance package can be tailored to your personal needs.

All cars are checked for safety and carry an MoT. The Oak Garage's after sales is second to none, with 12-month or 24-month warranties being available. Service plans can also be provided to help spread the cost of future maintenance.

For more details and to see cars online visit www.oakgarage.co.uk Best of all, visit The Oak Garage's impressive new showroom at Units 1-2 Sterling Park, Merry Hill, DY5 1TB. Alternatively call 01384 75097 for further details.

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, September 24, 2015

Touran order books open

Volkswagen has announced prices and specifications and opened the order books for the all-new Touran.

Redesigned from the ground up and built on Volkswagen's advanced MQB platform, the new Touran – priced from £22,240 – delivers a sharper, sleeker look, dramatically reduced running costs and a host of new innovations to make life on board safer and easier for everyone.

First shown at the Geneva Motor Show in March, the new Touran is 130mm longer than the model it replaces. Much of this is in the wheelbase, which, at 2,791mm, is 113mm longer than the previous model – further increasing usable interior space.

All models are equipped with a seven-seat layout that features a new fold-flat system.

The seats in the second and third rows, plus the front passenger seat backrest (from SE trim up) can be folded in a matter of seconds, creating a level continuous floor for easy loading.

With the second and third row seats folded, the Touran has a cargo capacity of 1,857 litres and has the largest luggage compartment in its class.

A total of 47 storage compartments also ensure that life's essentials gadgets can be carried safety and securely.

The new Touran launches with five engines (two petrol and three diesel) that are up to 19 per cent more efficient than the units they replace.

All engines are Euro6 compliant and have power outputs ranging from 110 to 190 PS. The petrol line-up consists of a 1.2-litre 110 PS TSI with a six-speed manual gearbox and a 1.4-litre 150 PS that is offered with a choice of six-speed manual or seven-speed DSG gearbox.

Diesel options consist of a 1.6-litre 110 PS with six-speed manual or seven-speed DSG, a 2.0-litre TDI 150 PS with six-speed manual or DSG, and a range-topping 2.0-litre TDI with 190 PS and standard six-speed DSG transmission.

Thanks to overall weight reductions of up to 62kg and the introduction of new fuel saving technologies, CO_2 emissions are significantly lower for the new model with the 1.6 TDI 110 PS DSG emitting just 111 g/km.

Highlights

With its highest ever equipment count, the new Touran offers buyers the ultimate in family transportation. Highlights on the entry-level S include automatic post-collision braking and pre-crash systems, seven airbags, 6.5-inch Composition Media system with DAB and Bluetooth, air conditioning, roof rails and seven seats.

Starting from £23,630, SE models add 16-inch alloys, Front Assist with city emergency braking function, front and rear parking sensors, iPod connectivity and rain sensor.

The new SE Family trim adds an extra-large panoramic sunroof with integrated lighting, Discover Navigation with Car-Net Guide and Inform and rear window blinds. Reflecting its family-friendly status, this model also features remotely activated child locks and a voice amplification system that allows the driver to be heard clearly by all rear passengers.

At the top of the range, SEL models add Adaptive Cruise Control, Driver Profile Select and App Connect, 17-inch alloy wheels, three-zone Pure Air air-conditioning with allergen filter and Driver Profile Selection.

Connectivity is also taken to a new level with numerous features that allow owners to take advantage of real-time information delivered straight to the infotainment display.

These include Car-Net 'Guide and Inform' and Car-Net 'App-Connect' that seamlessly integrates CarPlay (Apple) and Android Auto (Google) and MirrorLink.

Order books for the new Touran are open now with the first UK deliveries expected in December.

'Innovations to make life on board easier and safer.'

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Divan beds from £49. Mattresses from £29. Ortho matts from £69. Memory foam matts £79. Metal fashion bed frames - singles £49, doubles £69. Bunk bed frames £99.
Recliner sofas MANY HALF PRICE
Leather and fabric chairs from £49
Sofas from £99. Suites from £299
100's of end of line & clearance bargains
BFC FACTORY OUTLET
CONEYGRE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 7RG.
OFF A461 2 MINS FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
0121 557 6885
BIG CHOICE OF DINING FURNITURE

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

LARGE THREE tier garden fountain, electrically operated. £350. Victorian wash stand, £275. 01922 403879.

LGB MODEL Railway track. 45mm gauge, £1.50 per foot to clear. 01902 843918.

MODEL RAILWAY G-Scale, electric loco's, carriages, trucks, buildings etc to clear from £3. 01902 843918.

items wanted

WANTED ANY OLD TOOLS
CASH PAID
Hand tools, anything considered.
01543 452491 / 07539 340307

ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft •Lladro • Old coins • Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys • Clocks • Paintings • All silver • Chinese items • Old Ivory. • Military items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy- big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

AUSTIN J40 pedal car, £1000 paid cash. Sinclair C5. Chopper MK1 etc etc. Telephone 07930 949337 or 01384 484309.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED COOKERS, fridges, washers, must be good, clean condition and working. 07944 351351.

specialists at your service

boiler servicing

BOILER SERVICES/ REPAIRS. Gas safe. All areas. J & E Heating, 01902 562664, 07969 687832

blinds

AB-Blinds
Super 7
7 Child Safe Verticals Fitted from only £199
Call 0800 0347111
www.ab-blinds.co.uk

Amanda for Blinds
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3 for £99 | 5 for £159 | 7 for £179
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building services

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Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways.
See us on 'Rated People'.
Call 01902 579592 / 07837 994465

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Work Guaranteed
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THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!
Est 1955 - 59 years at the top!
Recommended by thousands
Genuine, honest, 100% reliable
WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO
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ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

CLEAR VISION AERIALS. Freeview, FreeSat, Sky. Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79, OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

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PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

domestic cleaning

CLEAN FOR YOU (midlands ltd)
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

drain clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

driveways & patios

ENERGY SEAL DRIVEWAYS All building work undertaken. Block paving, patios, concrete print, garden walls. For a free quote call 01902 866000 or 01902 861581.

driveways/patio cleaning

EXTERNAL CLEANING & Sealing tarmac restore, blockpaving, patios, roof clean, crete-print re-colouring. Able Cleaning. 01902 742222 or 07590 389991.

electrical services

A BARGAIN PRICED rewire, all fuseboards, lights Grahams Electrical. 01902 842739, 07783 471949.

fencing

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SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing concrete posts, gravel boards & heavy duty panels supplied and fitted for £695.00
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83 Portway Rd, Wednesbury, WS10 7DZ
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Mobile: 07866 137656

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• Fireplace alterations • Free home surveys • Full installation service available
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01746 765270

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ClassifiedAds

gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...
Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers
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- Fires
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- Landlord Certificates
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Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
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Made and Fitted Any Sizes
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cleaned, repaired, replaced, facias/ soffits, UPVC washdowns, all roofing/ repointing work. Free quotes, 8am-8pm
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YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, All trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

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A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

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plumbers

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No job too small
Free Quote
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Reliable & Friendly, Professional
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Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
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removals

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Single items, Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

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A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

CENTRA HEAT
Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate.
Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs
£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler
Installed in October. *T&C apply*
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Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing. Guttering repaired and replaced.
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All sizes
Same day service
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UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

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Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.
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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

STABLE AND GRAZING. DIY. Good facilities, near Albrighton. 07930 343538.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

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All neutered, innoculated and chipped.
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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BEAUTIFUL KITTENS weaned and litter trained, flead. £30 to ensure good home. 07765 807608.

BLACK LABRADOR pups, 2 dogs, ready now, £350 each. Bridgnorth 07779 476802.

DUDLEY ANIMAL RESCUE
Can you help us to continue supporting Amicii Dog Shelter in Romania.
With winter approaching the temperature will drop to minus 20 with 6ft of snow.
We are asking for donations of food, both tinned and dried adult and puppy.
Also needed are towels, unwanted dog medication, Advocate and Frontline flea treatment.
If you are able to make a financial donation it will be used towards vet bills.
Please help if you can.
01902 676559.

JACK RUSSELL puppies, dog and bitch, Mom and Dad can be seen. £200. 01384 233910.

MALE KITTENS, 9 wks old. Weaned and litter trained. Black/black & white: £30. Blonde: £40. Good homes only. 07460 345164.

MINIATURE TEA CUP Jack Russell pups, small, cute. £175. 01902 685399.

ROSEDENE RESCUE CENTRE
1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall. WS4 1LN.
01922 627013.
Require volunteers for kennel cleaning, duties to include dog walking, feeding and watering.
We also require a driver with a clean licence to help take dogs to vets and home checks. Car provided.
Desperate for bedding, ie. sheets, blankets, towels, quilt covers, (no quilts).

TWO BEAUTIFUL kittens must stay together, allergy forces sale. 16 weeks old. £40 for two, bed, litter tray included. 07729 064008.

WEDNESBURY SANCTUARY Needs a home for Mylo, a rescue tabby/white kitten, £20 donation. 0121 5025027.

vets

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So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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Cox's, Lambourne and Bramleys, 45p a 1lb
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business directory

accountants

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7 Jobs

courses

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TELFORD: 30 SEPT -1 OCT. STOKE-ON-TRENT: 17-18 OCT. DROITWICH: 30 OCT. - 1 NOV. BIRMINGHAM: 1-2 DEC.
Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
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Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Private Sector - Community - MOD

employment wanted

RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER
Requires casual / part time work. Own van / tools. Has been involved in general maintenance for last 12 years. CRB cleared.
01384 375672/07527 360303.

nursing & carers

PRACTICE NURSE required (RGN) 16 - 20 hours p.w. over 3 days for busy GP Practice in Kingswinford. Interested? Please contact Sonia Clark on 01384 277377. Closing date for applications. 2/10/15.

full time - general

Express & Star

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Sales Relationship Merchandiser

Do you have an eye for detail, are you self - motivated, enthusiastic and are able to communicate effectively and with confidence.

The Express and Star is looking for a sales relationship merchandiser to join our team helping to grow audience, strengthen the relationship with retailers, readers and ensure the brand experience is positive.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicant will work as part of a team, in designated territories, you will be required to ensure that all our titles are available, in key strategic positions to maximise response and exposure.

Previous sales or merchandising experience in the FMCG market is desirable, but not essential.The ability to react quickly and positively to a wide variety of situations is required.A professional attitude must be displayed at all times. You must have a full current driving licence, transport will be provided.

In return we offer full training and support, an annual salary of £8,200, 25 days holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme.

The position is 20 hours per week worked across 5 days between Monday-Saturday, weekends and Bank Holiday working will be required on a rota basis.

Closing Date: Friday 9th October 2015

if you would like to be considered for this role please send your cv and covering letter to:
HR Department Midland News Association, Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES
or by e-mail to: **hr@mnamedia.co.uk Closing date: Friday 9th October 2015**

Finance assistant

We are a Care Home Operator currently looking to recruit a finance assistant who will be based in our Head Office in Brierley Hill.

Duties will include the preparation of monthly management accounts and associated reconciliations. You should also have a good understanding of inter-company trading and reconciliation of inter company balances. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 12 months experience of working in a similar accounting role and be able to demonstrate a good working knowledge of Sage and Excel. It would be advantageous to be studying towards an accountancy qualification.

Please send your application with your c.v. to
johnwright@select-group.co.uk

ADMINISTRATOR
3 days a week
Near Kidderminster
Working closely with Director & Mechanics. Attention to detail being paramount to the success of this role. Able to work on their own initiative & have a good telephone manner. Be competent in Word, Excel, Outlook & have a knowledge of Sage accounts. Duties: Answering phone. Typing bespoke invoices from written documentation. Calculating parts purchased for clients in preparation for sales invoices. Booking of accommodation & travel arrangements. Regular liaison with hotels due to changes with booking. Inputting purchase invoices & sales invoices on Sage. General office duties. Data input. Petty cash. Allocating receipts against Bank & credit card statements.
For details call 01299 266966

EXPERIENCED MANAGER / COUPLE required for Public House, Tipton area. Attractive salary. Call 07417 451568.

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office & secretarial

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REQUIRED For expanding Business based in Brierley Hill, experience preferred. Full time position. Please email CV to msmith@midlanderection.com

part time - general

MATURE PERSON required for shop floor, 3 days pw, experience with sewing, basic Maths, working with general public in soft furnishings. Training provided.
House of Sanderson, Brierley Hill 07792 344847.

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WEDNESDAY
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Subject to terms

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I pay 100% of purchase price
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Local Investor pays you more
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6 Property

accommodation to let

A 3 BED FLAT BILSTON 1 Bed Finchfield Dss ok 01902 686605

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

HIGH Quality One Bed and Studio Flats Tettenhall area, No DSS. 07976 263435 / 01902 700028.

RECENTLY REFURBISHED 1 and 2 bed flats, Netherton, close to Merry Hill, DSS welcome. Call 01562 885668 or 07831 200692.

ROOMS TO LET, Bills Included In Bilston, Tipton and Wolverhampton areas. Call 07773 594640

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherton, from £85 pw inc bills. No DSS. Small deposit 07970 717139

THREE BED detached cottage, Hartlebury, rural outlook, would suit Family. £725pcm. Immediate availability. Viewings 07860 746438.

mobile homes

STATELY ALBION Chatsworth park home, quiet countryside park, near Telford. 46 x 12ft, 3 bed, private plot. £106,000. 01952 222541.

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or 100% MARKET VALUE IN 28 DAYS!
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FORGET THE REST and call me now for a best cash offer. 01543 499032

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I BUY HOUSES Any area, any condition. **FAST COMPLETION.** 01384 226087

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overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMW 320i MSPORT 57 plate, blue, fsh, 4dr, good condition, £5,300 ono. 07976 631638.

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£395.00 ono
07850172254

FIAT PUNTO 60. Blue, T reg. Excellent runner. Sunroof, power steering, radio, MoT, Serviced regularly. £375. 07775 268149.

Ford Fiesta, 5-dr, 1.4, 04 reg, MoT till January 2016, 71,000 miles, very well maintained, ideal first car, £750. 07885 772238.

FORD FOCUS 1.8. Petrol Saloon, 52 plate. MoT'd. Low mileage. Good runner. Needs a little TLC. £300. o.n.o. 01902 490826.

FORD KA 56 plate, silver, 1300cc, 63k, MoT'd July 2016, 2 keys. Good condition.
£925.o.n.o.
07760 887220.

HYUNDAI black, 1.6 Coupe SE, Y reg, 80,000 miles, long MoT, drives well, £595 ono. 07583 690063. Or 07800 868508.

KIA MAGENTIS SE 55 plate, automatic, petrol, 42k miles, blue grey leather, abs, electric windows/mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, central locking, 2 owners, cruise control, immaculate.
£1,095 ono.
07985 551666.

MERC C200 Classic Auto, petrol, 118,500 miles, silver, 2 owners, 2000 reg, MoT Dec 15, good condition £725. 07974 528541.

MERCEDES A140 2002, MoT June, £350 ono. 01902 677133 after 4pm.

MERCEDES CLK COUPE 2.0. 2-dr, T reg., £425. o.n.o. Telephone 07902 387527.

MG ZR 1.4, 04, 3 door, Chelsea blue, 47k miles, MoT May 2016, excellent condition, stainless steel exhaust, clean. £800 ono. Telephone 07583 001376.

PEUGEOT 106 Zest 2, 1.1, 2001 reg, 1 year MoT, service history, 66,000 miles, immaculate. £550. 07570 466779.

PEUGEOT 206 2002, Metallic blue, electric windows, air bag, long Mot, metallic paint, central locking, pas, £700 ono 07866 780135

PEUGEOT 206CC, 03 reg, MoT till March 2016, silver, 83,000 miles, good condition. £700 ono. Telephone 07543 905312.

PEUGEOT 307 SW ESTATE. 2003. MoT October. Drives very well. £275. o.n.o. 07552 165350

ROVER 1800 MGZS, 83,000 miles only, AA or RAC inspection welcome, lovely drive £750 ono. 075543 919296.

SUZUKI WAGON 1.3, 2003, MoT till August 2016, £695 ono. Please call 01384 257153.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 MoT March, serviced and maintained with electronic key, £400 o.n.o. 01902 654152.

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FORD FIESTA 07, full MoT, excellent condition inside and out, £1,595. 07468 925114.

FORD FIESTA 1.25 LITRE 2007, lady owner, Ford FSH, MoT, AC, PAS, radio/CD, 5-dr. £2,600. 07956 176017.

FORD MONDEO TDCI 2007, 83,000 miles, machine silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, diesel, alloys, immaculate.
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01384 827489.

HONDA CRV EXi-VTECH 2007 reg, good condition, 86k, black, MoT, service history, top spec, any trial welcome, unleaded,
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07740 820154.

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PEUGEOT 307 SE, 2006, very low mileage (36,108 miles), blue, very good condition, £2,100. 07870 611402.

PEUGEOT 307 SW S 1.6HDi Diesel 5dr Estate, 56 reg, 125k, long MoT, serviced, maintained, superb bargain £1,950. 07813 166435.

PORSCH BOXTER 2.7 convertible, 2001, 131,000 miles, silver, black leather, 10 months MoT, excellent condition. £4,200. Daytime 07970 068944. 01299 266967. After 6pm.

RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCi, DYNAMIQUE 3-dr hatchback, 2010 reg, diesel, built in Tom Tom Satnav, silver, manual, 57,800 miles, FSH, Mot Feb 2016. Excellent condition.
£4,200 ono.
01785 823522.

SUZUKI IGNIS 4GRIP GLX, 05 plate, 76,800 miles, fsh, 12 months MoT, 4 new tyres, new clutch and brake pads. £2,200 ono. 07712 693876.

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VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 Convertible,55 reg, power hood, grey, half leather, alloys, 85k, FSH. £2,100 ono 07831 609261 / 01384 258061.

VAUXHALL CORSA Twinport 1.2, 05 reg, 5 dr hatch, MoT March 16, very clean inside and out. £1,595 ono. 01902 829438.

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VW TRANSPORTER, 2002, 174,000 miles, white, lwb, starts, drives, stops, 2.5TDi, needs bodywork, £1,950. 07044 938864.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Notice is hereby given that **Punch Taverns PLC** has applied in respect of the **Crestwood Public House**, Lapwood Avenue, Kingswinford DY6 8SR for a variation to the Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 to: Vary the hours Monday - Saturday for all licensable activities to 10.00 - 00.00. Vary the hours on a Sunday for all licensable activities to 12.00 - 00.00. Vary the opening hours the premises is open to the public Monday - Saturday to 10.00 - 00.30 and Sunday to 12.00 - 00.30. Remove the following conditions: Annex- Conditions consistent with the Operating Schedule Steps taken to promote The Four Licensing Objectives c) Public Safety The whole of the condition under this heading; Conditions Attached to PEL And Converted Over 1 - 16 and reference to The Licensing Act 1964, Children & Young Persons Act 1933, Cinematograph (Safety) Regulations 1955 and Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol) 1985. Representations to this application must be made in writing, by Saturday 17 October 2015, to the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Licensing Authority at: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Unit 1, Hurst Business Park, Narrowboat Way, Brierley Hill DY5 1UF where the register of Licensing applications can be inspected between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday and/or at www.dudley.gov.uk It is an offence on summary conviction, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine for which is, unlimited.

WEIGHTMANS LLP

10 Personals

personal

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Women seeking men

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DEBBIE, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box 418117**

JULES, sensitive tactile, curvy brunette, hopeless romantic, seeks tall, loving male for fun, friendship and possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419033**

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA **Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box 366019**

HEATHER, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419031**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297**

PAULINE, 49yrs, very attractive, curvy divorcee, affectionate and fun, seeks laid back, sincere male for an uncomplicated, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418925**

POLLY, 36yrs, cuddly, curvy with fantastic personality, works from home so has time on her hands. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4068850**

LADY young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4881572**

KERRY Ann, 39yrs hairdresser, loves to run her fingers through hair! Chaps 30+ pls text, no young lads pls. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4155057**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845**

LOOKING for the right chemistry with country loving gent who like me is looking for some extra fun in their life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418843**

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795**

SOPHIA very sensual black lady looking to acquire a new distraction with lots of adult fun thrown in for good measure. Race/age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413399**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTM genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418587**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

BROKEN hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart age 39/40. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4869116**

KAY, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418577**

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418445**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369**

JO 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905**

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

TALL dark, attractive white male, 57, seeks attractive, Asian/black female for discreet, daytime fun, 20-45. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417483**

PHILLIP, retired bank manager, 62yrs, seeks young attractive lady, single mums welcome. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4123774**

TACTILE, romantic guy, height 5ft 6in, loves good food and drinking in or out, dancing, music, conversation and cuddles. Ready for love. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4893329**

TALL attractive professional male, 50, GSOH, looking for some fun, adventure and sparkle. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418951**

MALE seeks affectionate, tactile, no drama, down to earth woman for nights in/out and loads of cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418695**

COLIN, 48, seeks large cuddly lady between 45-55 for LTR, must like hugs, kisses, cuddles and holding hands. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4906088**

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

STEVE young 40, looking for uncomplicated adult fun with any age race female ACA. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4880449**

MALE, 63, caring, easygoing, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friendship and romance. Looks unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893**

COLIN 61, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind hearted, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsia's for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418463**

MALE 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 239148**

MALE 60, N/S, average looks, black hair, likes meals out, seeks female, 50-70, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383425**

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

6FT black male, medium-well built, attractive, friendly, outgoing, seeks slim, attractive female, 30-45 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 334003**

SLIM attractive man, 52, caring, GSOH, WLTM lady for friendship. Please reply and claim my last Rolo. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4172082**

SHAUN, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, creative, likes music, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

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Ceremony caps off the season for track riders

THE track season at Halesowen finished with the annual awards.

In the freewheeler category (for the youngest riders where a track bike is not needed) Alex Brown finished on top ahead of Ellie Swingell (first girl) and Tomos Pattinson.

Massimo Di Vito took overall honours in Youth A, closely followed by the Liam Allen and Ryan Brookes.

Youth 2 saw Alex Barker as winner followed by Nathan Burns and Joseph Brookes with Molly Lewis winning first girl.

In the senior categories the younger riders dominated with Charles Walker,leading the way winning the series overall along with the sprinter's title and the junior title. Luke Hardman took second spot and professional Jacob Tipper completed the podium.

In the sprinter's league, Oliver Dighton took second overall with Jacob in third.

The women's category was won by Emma Grayson, Nick Crutchley took the honours in the B league and William Fotheringham in the Vets League.

Cyclo Cross Racing (CX)

As the track season comes to an end the cyclo cross season starts.

Approximately 50 riders from Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club have taken part in the events with some highly placed in the league.

The pick of the bunch are Ella Harris in fourth in the U8s, Alex Barker in 3rd in the U12s, Simon Wylie running second in the U14s boys and Jamieson Blain in 5th in the U16s boys. In the adults the stand outs so far are Matthew Worrallo and Ceris Styler.

Ladies in seven heaven with win

Gornal Ladies 7 Stratford Town 1

DUE to travellers parking on their training ground Gornal's manager Mick Hickman had to quickly relocate training to a nearby park and reorganise the club's home match at Coseley leisure centre.

Gornal were glad of the return of goalkeeper Ellie "The Brick Wall" Harwood returning to help us out between the sticks releasing Chloe Edwards to return to her natural goal scoring position upfront.

Gornal started well, putting together some neat passing but it was the away team that took an early advantage.

A corner kick for Stratford ,curled straight into the top of the net.

Only three minutes later Gornal were awarded a penalty but striker Emily Derrer's shot rebounded from the underside of the cross bar.

Emily Derrer grabbed the equaliser with a corner routine from left back Sophie Liggins.

Gornal's dominance grew with a powerful run by winger Emily Smith who showed composure as she chipped the ball over the rushing keeper.

The girls were rewarded with another goal when midfielder Loz Thompson beat the Stratford defence.

A brilliant double save by Ellie Harwood stopped Stratford from equalising.

WChloe Edwards added another just before the break.Two minutes after the restart top goal scorer Emily Derrer used her strength to control the ball andslotted the ball past the keeper.

Chloe Edwards headed a ball on to Emily Smith who once again chipped over the keeper for her second.

Emily Derrer fed Chloe Edwards in space to smash home her second of the game.

GORNAL Ladies FC U-16 and U15s (formerly Gornal Girls) need experienced players for the 2015/16 Season.

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Swimmers defend the trophy for sixth time

SWIMMERS from Halesowen Swimming Club travelled to Braunstone for the annual trophy gala on Saturday.

The club was defending the trophy and were hoping to make it six wins in a row. After 10 events Halesowen were in joint first place with Braunstone A.

After 30 events Halesowen had surged ahead on 201 points to Branunstone's 189, but was short lived and Braunstone went into the lead.

Halesowen swimmers won the last four relay events, winning the gala and lifting the trophy for the sixth time in six years.

Double event winners were Josh Bradley in the 100m individual medley and 100m breastroke, Kate Morrice in the 100m butterfly and 100m freestyle, and Niamh Larkin in the 50m backstroke and 50 breaststroke.

Other individual winners were Jacob Bailey in the 50m backstroke, Olivia Jay, Amber Harrison, Robert Jennings and Callum Tinsdale in the 100m backstroke, Lily Merrell in the 100m breaststroke and Chloe Finch in the 100m freestyle.

The relay teams were strong winning 8 of the 16 relay events and included Olivia Jay, Georgia Lees, Emma Osbourne, Lauren Hill, Emily Jay, Emma Bird, Isobel Bowers, India Hanke, Jacob Darby, Mark Laing, Jakob Baker, James Cuthbert and Jack Simpson,

Final point scores were Halesowen – 329, Braunstone A – 323, Melton Mowbray – 250, Hinckley – 240, Market Harborough – 216, Coalville – 177, Witney & District – 146, and Braunstone B - 116.

Victory for DK adds to Walsall's woes

Dudley Kingswinford 46 Walsall 12

ALTHOUGH DK handed Walsall another defeat, the visiting team showed a significant improvement in several areas of their game.

Tries by Connah Jones and Rob Phillips with Kieran Pinches kicking a conversion and two penalties gave DK an 18 -0 interval lead. But Walsall were far more competitive during the second half.

Indeed, a 60 metre break out of defence involving Andy Fitzgerald, Chris Mould and Dave Pitt should have resulted in a score.

But the hosts set up a counter attack which resulted in Stefan Shillingford going over near the posts.

Walsall did gain the next score after Mould put centre Richard Clarke away on a40 metre run before finding John Josh Williams in support to go over for the try.

Five minutes later it was a similar situation as Williams cut through and then found Pitt in support. The Walsall winger outpaced the chasers and scored wide out.

Injury

But in scoring the try he sustained a leg injury and has now joined the ever growing group of injured Walsall players.

The visitors were pressing again and were having far more control of the game. The crucial score came a few minutes later.

Captain Neil Pittaway made a break, he was well supported by Fitzgerald, Benson,Weaver and the Walsall backs.

The final pass would have resulted in a certain try, but the pass was intercepted and winger Nicholas Adams raced 90 metres for the try.

The visitors tried to mount further attacks but it was DK that got the final scores as they ran with the ball at every opportunity.

Matthew Squire and DannyHawkins going over for try apiece. Pinches added the points once again.

Walsall United were involved in a close but entertaining game against Dudley K 2nds at Delves Road.

A late score secured the visitors a 31-20 win.

Ace tennis day as ladies at play

From left, front winners Tracey Jones and Kerry Hill with, behind, runners-up Pauline Clutterbuck and Liz Wilson.

IT was an ace day for the 32 ladies in Wollaston Ladies' Open tennis tournament at Wollaston Lawn Tennis Club.

Besides local entrants there were players from Stourbridge, Wall Heath, Wolverhampton and Bewdley clubs.

The players were split into two groups, each of eight pairs, with the top two in each section competing in the semi-finals.

Winners were Stourbridge pair Kerry Hill and Tracey Jones, who beat Wollaston's Pauline Clutterbuck and Liz Wilson 6-2 in the short set final.

It was the second victory in a week for Kerry and Tracey, who had won a similar open event at their own club just seven days earlier.

The other semi finalists were Anita Shinton and Caroline Trinham, from Wall Heath, Jean Brayshay of Stourbridge, partnering Jo Birch, of Wolverhampton's Newbridge club.

Kerry Hill said: "It has been a thoroughly enjoyable day - lovely tennis, lovely food and lovely ladies."

The Wollaston ladies' open was revived in 2014 after a gap of several years - but now looks set to be an annual fixture again.

Tividale are anchored at league bottom

Lincoln United 4 Tividale 0

TIVIDALE remain rock-bottom of the Evo-Stik Division One South after going down 4-0 at Lincoln United.

The home side took the lead after just 14 minutes when Tividale gave away a needless free-kick on the edge of the box and Lincoln wide man Paul Grimes fired the ball in.

On 41 minutes Lincoln doubled their score. Andrew Hutchinson's perfectly placed shot just grazed the inside of the post on its way into the net.

On 83 minutes it was deja vu when skipper Philip Male was harshly judged to have given away a free-kick on the edge of the box and Daniel Brookes stepped up and his shot again arrowed into Christopher Jay's bottom right-hand corner.

Kallum Smith to netted a fourth.

Delight as Glassboys beat leaders

Stourbridge 3 Blyth Spartans 0

STOURBRIDGE boss Gary Hackett was delighted with the performance of his side in overcoming the Evo-Stik Premier league leaders.

Hackett said they were the better side for large chunks of the game and called a double save by goalkeeper Lewis Solly at 1-0 up a 'game changer.'

"It was a wonderful save and it was a crucial moment because we were far from home and dry and it gave us the momentum to go on and seal the game," he said.

Stourbridge took the lead on 22 minutes when Matt Dodd made no mistake with the spot-kick.

Leon Broadhurst's 30-yard-shot that was only parried by Fabian Otte and Justin Richards followed up to score. Nine minutes later Karl Hawley got the third goal.

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An Express & Star supplement

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Sport

DK's victory adds to visitor's woes
Page 51

Ace for ladies in bumper turnout
Page 51

Plenty for DK runners to get stuck into

THERE were plenty of races for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club to feast on at the weekend.

The first was at Sutton Park for the Midlands Counties Road Relays with DK fielding a ladies and two men's teams in an regional championship event that attracted clubs from Stoke to the north, Nottingham to the east, Shrewsbury to the west and as far south as North Devon.

With the ladies going off first over the 4 x 4.315km course the team of Carol Fisher, Charlotte Tonks, Lisa Newell and Rebecca Warren finished in a total time of 1.27.58 to take 64th place of the 79 teams.

In the men's event over six legs at the slightly longer distance of 5.848km the A team of Ben Foster, Matt Biggs, James Wright, Darran Bishop, Dave Norman and Simon Hughes came home in a total time of 2.10.16 in 39th.

The B team of Graham Wildgoose, Simon Blizzard, Mark Homer, Richard Tonks, Kieran Pitt and Pete Hood finished in 66th in 2.28.49 from 84 teams with Notts AC, Tipton Harriers and Cheltenham and County Harriers filing the medal positions.

Twenty four hours later a group of hoops lined up with international class athletes and European and Commonwealth medallist Jo Pavey in the Worcester 10k.

Craig Brown was first DK runner home in 38th in a chip time of 38.13, Simon Blizzard having doubled up over the weekend was 113th in 41.22, Liz Hettle was 292nd in 45.41, Kathryn Sneyd was 424th in 48.07, Lyn Sprague was 485th in 48.53, Sarah Cox finished in 53.33 in 914th, Dave Ede was 1094th in 56.08 and Baljit Watsonthe same time.

Gornal high five adds more woes for old foes Town

Gornal A 5 Tipton Town 1

HIGH-FLYING Gornal Athletic ensured there was no upset at the Garden Walk Stadium with a 5-1 demolition of old foes Tipton Town in the West Midlands Premier Division.

The visitors have had a calamitous start to the season with only one point from 10 games.

The home side powered ahead in the ninth minute through Luke Guy.

After a couple of scares Tipton fought back and were unlucky when, in the 17th minute Marvin Whitter's chip-shot seemed certain to tie up the scores until home skipper Matt Vaughan cleared.

Tipton were gradually coming into the picture and Matt Holland's strike from 25 yards equalised.

On 50 minutes, Gornal regained the initiative through a Danny Ludlow goal, and Ben Streeton hit a third from 25 yards four minutes later.

Substitute Liam Morris weaved his way through a beleaguered Tipton defence to put Gornal 4-1 to the good after 71 minutes and Danny Crudgington completed the scoring two minutes from time.

Old Hales show complete dominance

Owen Jones in the thick of the action

Old Halesonians 1st 41 Old Northamptonians 3

Rugby

THE home side started strong but were over exuberant and after four minutes were penalised, the visitors converted to lead by three.

This was to be the last points for Old Norths as Hales started to dominate.

The pack led by skipper Rich Taylor took control. Early pressure resulted in a penalty which Chris Hooper converted.

After 17 minutes Carl Robinson scored, Hooper converted.

After pressure by Tom Jordan and Owen Jones towards the line, Guy Field took the final drive for a well deserved try. From the restart Owen Jones took over for a try, converted by Hooper.

The second half saw Andy Robinson reaching for a great try, again converted by Hooper.

On 46mins a try by Tom King was converted by Hooper.

Luke smith had been threatening all day and he out sprinted the defence to score,.

DOR Gary Cox used his replacements with Sol Rogers making his debut on for Jordan and Carl Robinson back on for Barkley to partner.

NO GOAL ZONE FOR WOLVES

Wolves 0 Brighton 0

A point against the league leaders despite playing 41 minutes with 10 men, a first clean sheet of the season, the emergence of a goalkeeper to finally claim the No.1 jersey – sounds like a successful afternoon at Molineux.

And on the whole, yes it was.

Wolves' dogged determination and resolute defending was a pleasing and overdue sight.

They restricted Brighton largely to pot shots, and for all Emiliano Martinez's brilliance he wasn't forced to pull off a fingertip save of note in the second half.

Those of a Wolves persuasion could have been forgiven for fearing the worst when Conor Coady saw red four minutes after half-time.

But, credit to them, they showed discipline in their two banks of four and as a result Brighton struggled to unpick the Wolves lock, trying different methods and applying plenty of pressure, all to no avail.

Coady's red – a surprise to everyone in the stadium, claimed Kenny Jackett, who clearly didn't take a survey – was the game's pivotal moment.

And it also robbed us of an opportunity to see what Wolves were really made of in that second half.

Because in a dull first half they had showed flashes of good football against a lethargic Brighton and, while not testing visiting keeper David Stockdale, probably edged the opening period.

Adam le Fondre looked at home playing off Benik Afobe and, had his close-range shot found the back of the net instead of hitting Tomer Hemed on the goal-line half an hour in, the end result may have been very different.

Roving

In defence they were vulnerable to Hemed and the roving Jamie Murphy, but largely held their ground, and of course their one big mistake – Scott Golbourne's oafish barging to the ground of Murphy to concede a penalty – had no consequence thanks to Martinez.

On-loan striker Adam le Fondre flies in, but he is denied a goal on the line by Brighton's Tomer Hemed

Then Coady's rush of blood to the head saw Jackett turn the game change dial to 'retreat' and that was what Wolves did thereafter.

The concern is that, while the point and clean sheet were extremely welcome, Wolves still looked a shadow of the side of last season. Jackett continues to struggle to find the right combination in midfield, which has been the chief problem area this season.

He recalled Sheyi Ojo – whose resulting disappearing act would have made Lord Lucan proud – and persisted with Coady and Edwards in midfield, a pairing that didn't work at Bolton and didn't work here either, mostly because the latter is not a central midfielder. Coady's likely three-game ban probably offers Kevin McDonald another chance to show he can produce his best form while his contract situation remains unresolved.

And Wolves need him back to his best. For it seems that unless he clicks, the team doesn't either.

Another who may benefit from Coady's absence is the hitherto unseen Jack Price, who despite signing a new contract in the summer, has been completely ignored in the league this season.

With Danny Batth soon to return, there are improvements still to come for this team.

TD succumb to second half fury

Wem Town 2 Team Dudley 1

THE third of five consecutive away trips saw The Students heading Shrewsbury way for a match against Wem at Butler Sports Centre.

TD travelled with injuries and suspensions taking their toll as Nathan Jones and Liam McEvoy were named on the bench despite not being fully fit, the loss of James Hawthorne to suspension saw Steve Whitehouse take the armband.

With Kyle Green injured and Liam Jones completing his FA Goalkeeping course Marc Lawrence stepped between the sticks. He was tested early doors by a Darren France strike.

Steve Whitehouse fired low and hard into the bottom corner forTD .

Within four minutes of the restart Wem were level as Matty Owen scored, the goal came with controversy as Wem broke from a foul on Sam Lea in the penalty area, the penalty was waved away despite the midfielder in agony in the box, the counter was seemingly stalled but Owen lunged in on Alex Pinches with a studs-showing movethe ball then bounced beyond Lawrence and into the corner.

Wem then took the lead just before the hour mark as Jack Clements whipped in a cross. It was met by Shane Owen's, unchallenged, head and that diverted the ball past Lawrence as TD found Wem's high intensity start to the half tough to deal with.

TD struggled to find openings from then on it and keeping possession was made harder with Wem constantly in the faces of the Students forcing mistakes and the final chance fell to the home side as Sean Butler saw his shot high across goal tipped over by Lawrence who did a sterling job as stand in.

Two late goals seal game for the Yeltz

Frickley Athletic 1 Halesowen 2

TWO goals in the last 10 minutes from Keyen Raffel saw Halesowen come from behind in Yorkshire to get their third win in a row.

Raffel has now scored three goals since he joined the club on loan from Kidderminster Harriers.

The first half was even, with the teams only separated by a strike from Jacob Hazel in the 34th minute for Frickley.

Gradually Halesowen found their way into the game and Raffel reduced the lead on 84 minutes before scoring the winner three minutes later with a great strike.

★★★

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